

## REFORMED BODIES

### GENERAL STATEMENT

The churches, aside from the Lutheran, that were the direct outcome of the Protestant Reformation, trace their ecclesiastical origin to republican Switzerland, and those leaders in the cause of representative government, Zwingli, Calvin, and Melancthon. Of these the Swiss, Dutch, and many German churches came to be known as Reformed; the Scotch and English as Presbyterian; and the French as Huguenot; while those in Bohemia and Hungary preserved their national names.

In the early colonization of America, Dutch and Germans, as well as Scotch and English, were prominent, and as a result there are 4 Reformed Churches—2 tracing their origin to Holland, 1 to the German Palatinate, and 1 to Hungary. The first church in New Amsterdam was organized by the Dutch in 1628, and for a considerable time the Hollanders were practically limited to the province of New Netherland. Somewhat later a German colony, driven from the Palatinate by the ruthless persecution of Louis XIV, settled in upper New York and Pennsylvania, and as it grew spread westward. Another Dutch immigration, which established its headquarters in Michigan, identified itself with the New York branch, but afterwards a minor part formed its own ecclesiastical organization. The New York branch, known at first as the "Reformed Protestant Dutch Church," later adopted the title "Reformed Church in America"; similarly, the German Reformed Church became, in 1867, the Reformed Church in the United States. The third body is known as the Christian Reformed Church; while a fourth is styled the Free Magyar Reformed Church in America. This denomination was organized in 1924 by certain congregations which refused to accept the "Tiffin Agreement," under whose terms the majority of the churches constituting the former Hungarian Reformed Church in America were formally transferred to the jurisdiction of the Reformed Church in the United States. There are also a number of churches called Netherlands Dutch Church or True Reformed Dutch Church, and some of the Hungarian churches, which have no general ecclesiastical organization and are included under the head of "Independent churches."

In its earlier history each body clung to its ancestral language, a practice which not infrequently checked a natural growth, although it had the advantage of giving to the newcomers a congenial church life, to which is largely due the fact that these communities have grown up loyal to the best interests both of their mother church and of their new country. As conditions changed, the use of English was accepted, and the older churches blended with the general interests of the community.

In their doctrine, polity, and general public life, the Reformed churches remain conservative. New ideas, simply because novel, have not had ready acceptance; yet new forms of organization, such as the various societies for young people and similar enterprises, have found a cordial welcome. In interdenominational relations they have always been friendly, are members of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and early inaugurated foreign mission work. They have stood for high standards in education and scholarship and have furnished many men prominent in public life.

In doctrine they are generally Calvinistic. Their Heidelberg Catechism emphasizes the general comfort of redemption in Christ, while the Westminster Catechism teaches the same and emphasizes the sovereignty of God. The polity is synod-presbyterian, differing from that of the Presbyterian churches only in the names of church offices and some other details. They have a consistory instead of a session, a classis instead of a presbytery, and a general synod instead of a general assembly.

The denominations grouped under the name "Reformed Bodies," in 1926, 1916, and 1906, are listed in the table below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. Since 1916 the Hungarian Reformed Church in America has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Reformed Church in the United States, with the exception of a few churches which did not approve the merger and organized in 1924 as the Free Magyar Reformed Church in America.

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

| DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR                | Total number of churches |                   | VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES |                     | EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR |                     | SUNDAY SCHOOLS     |                    |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|   | Number of churches       | Number of members | Churches reporting       | Amount              | Churches reporting       | Amount              | Churches reporting | Number of scholars |
| <b>1926</b>                                 |                          |                   |                          |                     |                          |                     |                    |                    |
| <b>Total for the group</b> .....            | <b>2,682</b>             | <b>617,551</b>    | <b>2,618</b>             | <b>\$88,457,147</b> | <b>2,659</b>             | <b>\$14,810,436</b> | <b>2,489</b>       | <b>465,725</b>     |
| Reformed Church in America.....             | 717                      | 153,739           | 690                      | 38,436,822          | 714                      | 5,524,673           | 689                | 124,308            |
| Reformed Church in the United States.....   | 1,709                    | 361,286           | 1,680                    | 44,662,875          | 1,692                    | 7,488,446           | 1,614              | 315,343            |
| Christian Reformed Church.....              | 245                      | 98,534            | 238                      | 5,061,850           | 242                      | 1,700,760           | 178                | 25,281             |
| Free Magyar Reformed Church in America..... | 11                       | 3,992             | 10                       | 295,600             | 11                       | 96,557              | 8                  | 793                |
| <b>1916</b>                                 |                          |                   |                          |                     |                          |                     |                    |                    |
| <b>Total for the group</b> .....            | <b>2,745</b>             | <b>537,822</b>    | <b>2,600</b>             | <b>41,137,627</b>   | <b>2,684</b>             | <b>6,842,542</b>    | <b>2,575</b>       | <b>454,099</b>     |
| Reformed Church in America.....             | 715                      | 144,929           | 690                      | 18,928,383          | 705                      | 2,746,065           | 697                | 123,092            |
| Reformed Church in the United States.....   | 1,758                    | 344,374           | 1,663                    | 20,116,336          | 1,714                    | 3,247,773           | 1,658              | 304,250            |
| Christian Reformed Church.....              | 226                      | 38,668            | 209                      | 1,658,308           | 221                      | 715,193             | 188                | 24,445             |
| Hungarian Reformed Church in America.....   | 46                       | 9,851             | 38                       | 434,600             | 44                       | 133,511             | 32                 | 2,312              |
| <b>1906</b>                                 |                          |                   |                          |                     |                          |                     |                    |                    |
| <b>Total for the group</b> .....            | <b>2,583</b>             | <b>449,514</b>    | <b>2,477</b>             | <b>30,648,247</b>   |                          |                     | <b>2,345</b>       | <b>361,548</b>     |
| Reformed Church in America.....             | 657                      | 124,938           | 639                      | 15,553,250          |                          |                     | 639                | 120,705            |
| Reformed Church in the United States.....   | 1,736                    | 292,654           | 1,667                    | 14,067,897          |                          |                     | 1,569              | 222,324            |
| Christian Reformed Church.....              | 174                      | 26,669            | 160                      | 903,600             |                          |                     | 133                | 18,340             |
| Hungarian Reformed Church in America.....   | 16                       | 5,253             | 11                       | 123,500             |                          |                     | 4                  | 179                |

# REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

## STATISTICS

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

All baptized persons who have made confession of faith before the elders and the ministers are enrolled as full members. Baptism is administered to infants, but public confession of faith is not usually made before the twelfth or thirteenth year.

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

| ITEM  | Total        | In urban territory <sup>1</sup> | In rural territory <sup>1</sup> | PER CENT OF TOTAL |       |
|---|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------|
|   |              |                                 |                                 | Urban             | Rural |
| <b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....         | 717          | 304                             | 413                             | 42.4              | 57.6  |
| <b>Members</b> .....                                | 153,739      | 96,051                          | 57,688                          | 62.5              | 37.5  |
| Average per church.....                             | 214          | 316                             | 140                             |                   |       |
| <b>Membership by sex:</b>                           |              |                                 |                                 |                   |       |
| Male.....   | 58,942       | 35,163                          | 23,779                          | 59.7              | 40.3  |
| Female.....   | 78,865       | 48,635                          | 30,330                          | 61.5              | 38.5  |
| Sex not reported.....                               | 15,932       | 12,353                          | 3,579                           | 77.5              | 22.5  |
| Males per 100 females.....                          | 74.7         | 72.4                            | 78.4                            |                   |       |
| <b>Membership by age:</b>                           |              |                                 |                                 |                   |       |
| Under 13 years.....                                 | 1,951        | 1,282                           | 669                             | 65.7              | 34.3  |
| 13 years and over.....                              | 118,664      | 71,893                          | 46,771                          | 60.6              | 39.4  |
| Age not reported.....                               | 33,124       | 22,876                          | 10,248                          | 69.1              | 30.9  |
| Per cent under 13 years <sup>2</sup> .....          | 1.6          | 1.8                             | 1.4                             |                   |       |
| <b>Church edifices:</b>                             |              |                                 |                                 |                   |       |
| Number.....   | 817          | 344                             | 473                             | 42.1              | 57.9  |
| Value—Churches reporting.....                       | 690          | 288                             | 402                             | 41.7              | 58.3  |
| Amount reported.....                                | \$38,436,822 | \$30,557,832                    | \$7,878,990                     | 79.5              | 20.5  |
| Average per church.....                             | \$55,706     | \$106,104                       | \$19,599                        |                   |       |
| Debt—Churches reporting.....                        | 250          | 135                             | 115                             | 54.0              | 46.0  |
| Amount reported.....                                | \$2,580,473  | \$2,128,275                     | \$452,198                       | 82.5              | 17.5  |
| Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice..... | 409          | 140                             | 269                             | 34.2              | 65.8  |
| <b>Parsonages:</b>                                  |              |                                 |                                 |                   |       |
| Value—Churches reporting.....                       | 580          | 229                             | 351                             | 39.5              | 60.5  |
| Amount reported.....                                | \$5,002,275  | \$2,819,850                     | \$2,182,425                     | 56.4              | 43.6  |
| Debt—Churches reporting.....                        | 127          | 65                              | 62                              | 51.2              | 48.8  |
| Amount reported.....                                | \$355,460    | \$242,550                       | \$112,910                       | 68.2              | 31.8  |
| Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....      | 420          | 153                             | 267                             | 36.4              | 63.6  |
| <b>Expenditures during year:</b>                    |              |                                 |                                 |                   |       |
| Churches reporting.....                             | 714          | 303                             | 411                             | 42.4              | 57.6  |
| Amount reported.....                                | \$5,524,673  | \$3,867,138                     | \$1,657,535                     | 70.0              | 30.0  |
| Current expenses and improvements.....              | \$4,319,919  | \$3,056,371                     | \$1,263,548                     | 70.8              | 29.2  |
| Benevolences, missions, etc.....                    | \$1,195,917  | \$803,767                       | \$392,150                       | 67.2              | 32.8  |
| Not classified.....                                 | \$8,837      | \$7,000                         | \$1,837                         | 79.2              | 20.8  |
| Average expenditure per church.....                 | \$7,738      | \$12,763                        | \$4,033                         |                   |       |
| <b>Sunday schools:</b>                              |              |                                 |                                 |                   |       |
| Churches reporting.....                             | 689          | 296                             | 393                             | 43.0              | 57.0  |
| Officers and teachers.....                          | 11,837       | 6,898                           | 4,939                           | 58.3              | 41.7  |
| Scholars.....                                       | 124,308      | 74,667                          | 49,641                          | 60.1              | 39.9  |

<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> Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 717 active churches of the Reformed Church in America, with 153,739 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 665 churches, and the classification by age was reported by 582 churches, including, however, only 144 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 CHURCH IN AMERICA**

| ITEM  | 1926         | 1916         | 1906         | 1890         |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Churches (local organizations)</b> ..... | 717          | 715          | 657          | 572          |
| Increase over preceding census:             |              |              |              |              |
| Number.....                                 | 2            | 58           | 85           |              |
| Per cent.....                               | 0.3          | 8.8          | 14.9         |              |
| <b>Members</b> .....                        | 153,739      | 144,929      | 124,938      | 92,970       |
| Increase over preceding census:             |              |              |              |              |
| Number.....                                 | 8,810        | 19,991       | 31,968       |              |
| Per cent.....                               | 6.1          | 16.0         | 34.4         |              |
| Average membership per church.....          | 214          | 203          | 190          | 163          |
| <b>Church edifices:</b>                     |              |              |              |              |
| Number.....                                 | 817          | 757          | 773          | 670          |
| Value—Churches reporting.....               | 690          | 690          | 639          |              |
| Amount reported.....                        | \$38,436,822 | \$18,928,383 | \$15,553,250 | \$10,340,159 |
| Average per church.....                     | \$55,706     | \$27,432     | \$24,340     |              |
| Debt—Churches reporting.....                | 250          | 258          | 198          |              |
| Amount reported.....                        | \$2,580,473  | \$1,093,623  | \$729,225    |              |
| <b>Parsonages:</b>                          |              |              |              |              |
| Value—Churches reporting.....               | 580          | 528          | 489          |              |
| Amount reported.....                        | \$5,002,275  | \$2,378,790  | \$2,022,450  |              |
| Debt—Churches reporting.....                | 127          |              |              |              |
| Amount reported.....                        | \$355,460    |              |              |              |
| <b>Expenditures during year:</b>            |              |              |              |              |
| Churches reporting.....                     | 714          | 705          |              |              |
| Amount reported.....                        | \$5,524,673  | \$2,746,065  |              |              |
| Current expenses and improvements.....      | \$4,319,919  | \$2,087,045  |              |              |
| Benevolences, missions, etc.....            | \$1,195,917  | \$609,501    |              |              |
| Not classified.....                         | \$9,837      | \$49,519     |              |              |
| Average expenditure per church.....         | \$7,738      | \$3,895      |              |              |
| <b>Sunday schools:</b>                      |              |              |              |              |
| Churches reporting.....                     | 689          | 697          | 639          |              |
| Officers and teachers.....                  | 11,837       | 12,538       | 12,089       |              |
| Scholars.....                               | 124,308      | 123,062      | 120,705      |              |

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Reformed Church in America 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 classis in the Reformed Church in America, under the particular 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: REFORMED CHURCH IN 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> |
| United States.....            | 717                | 304   | 413   | 153,739           | 96,051 | 57,688 | 58,942                  | 78,865 | 15,932           | 74.7                                 |
| Middle Atlantic:              |                    |       |       |                   |        |        |                         |        |                  |                                      |
| New York.....                 | 294                | 139   | 155   | 62,855            | 42,407 | 20,448 | 21,280                  | 30,857 | 10,718           | 69.0                                 |
| New Jersey.....               | 152                | 87    | 65    | 39,990            | 28,873 | 11,117 | 15,188                  | 22,221 | 2,581            | 68.3                                 |
| Pennsylvania.....             | 8                  | 4     | 4     | 1,803             | 1,258  | 545    | 861                     | 942    |                  | 91.4                                 |
| East North Central:           |                    |       |       |                   |        |        |                         |        |                  |                                      |
| Ohio.....                     | 2                  | 2     |       | 308               | 308    |        | 145                     | 163    |                  | 89.0                                 |
| Indiana.....                  | 4                  | 2     | 2     | 436               | 177    | 259    | 151                     | 160    | 125              | 94.4                                 |
| Illinois.....                 | 29                 | 12    | 17    | 6,582             | 3,885  | 2,697  | 2,971                   | 3,611  |                  | 82.3                                 |
| Michigan.....                 | 86                 | 46    | 40    | 21,282            | 15,167 | 6,115  | 9,399                   | 10,984 | 899              | 85.6                                 |
| Wisconsin.....                | 14                 | 4     | 10    | 4,180             | 1,643  | 2,537  | 2,006                   | 2,174  |                  | 92.3                                 |
| West North Central:           |                    |       |       |                   |        |        |                         |        |                  |                                      |
| Minnesota.....                | 14                 |       | 14    | 1,668             |        | 1,668  | 791                     | 877    |                  | 90.2                                 |
| Iowa.....                     | 60                 | 6     | 54    | 9,475             | 2,131  | 7,344  | 3,793                   | 4,173  | 1,509            | 90.9                                 |
| North Dakota.....             | 5                  |       | 5     | 325               |        | 325    | 163                     | 162    |                  | 100.6                                |
| South Dakota.....             | 25                 |       | 25    | 1,787             |        | 1,787  | 825                     | 862    | 100              | 95.7                                 |
| Nebraska.....                 | 4                  |       | 4     | 853               |        | 853    | 415                     | 438    |                  | 94.7                                 |
| Kansas.....                   | 3                  |       | 3     | 269               |        | 269    | 134                     | 135    |                  | 99.3                                 |
| East South Central:           |                    |       |       |                   |        |        |                         |        |                  |                                      |
| Kentucky.....                 | 3                  |       | 3     | 446               |        | 446    | 113                     | 333    |                  | 33.9                                 |
| West South Central:           |                    |       |       |                   |        |        |                         |        |                  |                                      |
| Oklahoma.....                 | 3                  |       | 3     | 366               |        | 366    | 158                     | 208    |                  | 76.0                                 |
| Mountain:                     |                    |       |       |                   |        |        |                         |        |                  |                                      |
| Montana.....                  | 2                  |       | 2     | 71                |        | 71     | 33                      | 38     |                  |                                      |
| Colorado.....                 | 1                  | 1     |       | 121               | 121    |        | 60                      | 61     |                  |                                      |
| New Mexico.....               | 3                  |       | 3     | 206               |        | 206    | 100                     | 106    |                  | 94.3                                 |
| Pacific:                      |                    |       |       |                   |        |        |                         |        |                  |                                      |
| Washington.....               | 3                  |       | 3     | 469               |        | 469    | 220                     | 249    |                  | 88.4                                 |
| California.....               | 2                  | 1     | 1     | 247               | 81     | 166    | 136                     | 111    |                  | 122.5                                |

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

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

### DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The Reformed Church in America traces its origin to the Reformed Church in Holland. After the Reformation had triumphed in the northern provinces of the Netherlands, Holland became a stronghold of the Protestant faith and a refuge from persecution in other countries. The congregations worshiped at first as "The Churches of the Netherlands under the Cross," but before 1560 a united organization had been formed, and in 1566 and 1568 important synods were in session. The presbyterian form of government, as set forth by Calvin, was adopted; ministers, elders, and deacons were the constituted officers, and, in the local church, formed the consistory. The Belgic Confession of Faith and the Heidelberg Catechism were adopted as the standards of doctrine. A liturgy drawn from early sources and from liturgies in use elsewhere at the time was introduced in the churches. In 1618-19 the Canons of the Synod of Dort were also made a doctrinal standard.

<sup>1</sup> This statement, though in part the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. John A. Ingham, D. D., secretary of the Progress Council of the Reformed Church in 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: REFORMED CHURCH IN 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    | Under 13 years          | 13 years and over | Age not reported | Per cent under 13 <sup>1</sup> |
| United States.....  | 717                | 715  | 657   | 153,739           | 144,929 | 124,938 | 1,951                   | 118,664           | 33,124           | 1.6                            |
| New York.....       | 294                | 300  | 297   | 62,855            | 66,773  | 63,350  | 733                     | 49,481            | 12,641           | 1.5                            |
| New Jersey.....     | 152                | 149  | 133   | 39,990            | 37,959  | 32,290  | 536                     | 33,826            | 5,628            | 1.6                            |
| Pennsylvania.....   | 8                  | 9    | 10    | 1,803             | 1,722   | 1,979   | 25                      | 1,778             | -----            | 1.4                            |
| Indiana.....        | 4                  | 3    | 4     | 436               | 267     | 268     | -----                   | 436               | -----            | -----                          |
| Illinois.....       | 29                 | 35   | 31    | 6,582             | 7,053   | 4,962   | 6                       | 4,231             | 2,345            | 0.1                            |
| Michigan.....       | 86                 | 76   | 63    | 21,282            | 14,903  | 11,260  | 350                     | 14,609            | 6,323            | 2.3                            |
| Wisconsin.....      | 14                 | 13   | 14    | 4,180             | 3,076   | 2,312   | -----                   | 2,287             | 1,893            | -----                          |
| Minnesota.....      | 14                 | 15   | 11    | 1,668             | 1,109   | 852     | 50                      | 1,330             | 288              | 3.6                            |
| Iowa.....           | 60                 | 66   | 47    | 9,475             | 7,575   | 4,835   | 108                     | 6,414             | 2,953            | 1.7                            |
| North Dakota.....   | 5                  | 4    | 3     | 325               | 265     | 165     | -----                   | 186               | 139              | -----                          |
| South Dakota.....   | 25                 | 20   | 19    | 1,787             | 1,214   | 847     | 26                      | 1,491             | 270              | 1.7                            |
| Nebraska.....       | 4                  | 3    | 2     | 853               | 1,094   | 432     | 10                      | 679               | 164              | 1.5                            |
| Kansas.....         | 3                  | 4    | 2     | 269               | 290     | 213     | -----                   | 229               | 40               | -----                          |
| South Carolina..... | -----              | 2    | 5     | -----             | 46      | 140     | -----                   | -----             | -----            | -----                          |
| Kentucky.....       | 3                  | 2    | ----- | 446               | 127     | -----   | 14                      | 432               | -----            | 3.1                            |
| Oklahoma.....       | 3                  | 3    | 11    | 366               | 486     | 705     | 20                      | 346               | -----            | 5.5                            |
| Montana.....        | 2                  | 3    | ----- | 71                | 136     | -----   | 2                       | 69                | -----            | -----                          |
| New Mexico.....     | 3                  | 1    | ----- | 206               | 192     | -----   | 2                       | 71                | 133              | -----                          |
| Washington.....     | 3                  | 3    | 2     | 469               | 277     | 95      | 2                       | 225               | 242              | 0.9                            |
| Other States.....   | 5                  | 4    | 3     | 676               | 365     | 233     | 67                      | 544               | 65               | 11.0                           |

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

The Reformed religion came to New Netherlands with the earliest Dutch settlers. "Comforters of the Sick" were commissioned to minister to the spiritual needs of the colonists. They conducted informal religious services until the arrival of the first minister of the New Amsterdam Church, Rev. Jonas Michaelius, on April 7, 1628. In that same year the church now known as the "Collegiate Church," the oldest church in the Middle States, was formally organized.

At first the work in America was in charge of the Synod of Holland, or more directly, the Classis of Amsterdam. The ministers, who were few in number, came from Holland. Toward the middle of the eighteenth century the exercise of authority here became the occasion of sharp and protracted controversy, and two parties arose, the Coetus and Conferentie, the issue in the latter part of the century being the entire independence of the American Church.

The education and ordination of ministers were the chief points of controversy. Not enough ministers were coming from Holland. It was a long, difficult, and expensive thing to send young men to Holland for education or for ordination if educated here. Foremost in advocating education and ordination in this country were Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen, who came in 1719-20 to serve the churches in the Raritan Valley, in New Jersey, and his sons, John and Theodorus. Following their efforts, and under the immediate leadership of Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh, then minister of the Raritan Valley churches, and Hendrick Fisher the elder, a college was founded. It was one of the nine colonial colleges and received its first charter in 1766 and its second in 1770 from George III of England. It was located at New Brunswick, N. J., and was called Queen's

**TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:  
REFORMED CHURCH IN 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...                | 717                      | 817                       | 690                      | \$38,436,822 | 250                     | \$2,580,473 | 580                 | \$5,002,275 | 127                | \$355,460 |
| New York.....                   | 294                      | 337                       | 282                      | 22,729,482   | 69                      | 1,057,125   | 219                 | 2,038,850   | 25                 | 92,389    |
| New Jersey.....                 | 152                      | 190                       | 146                      | 9,883,860    | 59                      | 709,240     | 126                 | 1,522,000   | 31                 | 128,600   |
| Pennsylvania.....               | 8                        | 10                        | 8                        | 354,000      | 2                       | 7,800       | 6                   | 58,000      | 2                  | 3,300     |
| Indiana.....                    | 4                        | 4                         | 4                        | 24,000       | 2                       | 5,100       | 3                   | 13,000      | —                  | —         |
| Illinois.....                   | 29                       | 35                        | 29                       | 1,296,500    | 12                      | 222,500     | 29                  | 210,000     | 4                  | 10,300    |
| Michigan.....                   | 86                       | 89                        | 85                       | 2,426,900    | 47                      | 421,122     | 74                  | 499,400     | 30                 | 69,425    |
| Wisconsin.....                  | 14                       | 14                        | 14                       | 372,000      | 5                       | 10,200      | 14                  | 87,500      | 5                  | 7,000     |
| Minnesota.....                  | 14                       | 13                        | 12                       | 117,480      | 9                       | 16,276      | 11                  | 41,900      | 2                  | 826       |
| Iowa.....                       | 60                       | 64                        | 58                       | 855,100      | 25                      | 80,490      | 55                  | 331,400     | 16                 | 23,070    |
| North Dakota.....               | 5                        | 8                         | 5                        | 36,600       | 2                       | 1,060       | 4                   | 21,000      | 1                  | 2,000     |
| South Dakota.....               | 25                       | 24                        | 22                       | 114,400      | 10                      | 14,260      | 20                  | 85,500      | 6                  | 10,950    |
| Nebraska.....                   | 4                        | 4                         | 4                        | 26,000       | 1                       | 2,400       | 3                   | 10,500      | 1                  | 2,000     |
| Kansas.....                     | 3                        | 3                         | 3                        | 27,000       | 1                       | 2,000       | 3                   | 10,500      | —                  | —         |
| Kentucky.....                   | 3                        | 3                         | 3                        | 42,000       | —                       | —           | —                   | (1)         | —                  | —         |
| Oklahoma.....                   | 3                        | 4                         | 3                        | 8,500        | —                       | —           | —                   | (1)         | —                  | —         |
| New Mexico.....                 | 3                        | 3                         | 3                        | 8,000        | —                       | —           | —                   | (1)         | —                  | —         |
| Washington.....                 | 3                        | 4                         | 3                        | 25,500       | 2                       | 2,500       | 3                   | 10,500      | 1                  | 1,300     |
| Other States <sup>2</sup> ..... | 7                        | 8                         | 6                        | 89,500       | 4                       | 28,400      | 10                  | 62,225      | 3                  | 4,300     |

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

<sup>2</sup> The figures for value of parsonages include data for 5 churches in Kentucky, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

College; in 1825 its name was changed to Rutgers College. John Henry Livingston was appointed professor of theology in 1784. This was the beginning of the first theological seminary to be established in this country. English was made the official language of the college, and at that time, 150 years ago, it began to displace the Dutch language in the pulpits of the churches. The founding of the college and the seminary practically coincided with the emerging of the church into its independent American organization.

John Henry Livingston, returning in 1770 from theological study at Utrecht to take charge of the New York church, brought with him a plan of union which formally united the church and made virtually complete the independent authority which had been growing for 20 years. A General Body and five Particular Bodies were created. In 1792 a more formal constitution was adopted, and in 1794 the General Synod was organized. The presbyterian form of government was retained and the three doctrinal standards brought from the Netherlands continued to be the accepted standards of the church. The liturgy was adopted in 1771, although some changes have been made in it from time to time. The constitution also has been revised at different times, the last extensive revision having been made in 1916. Two names were in use at the time of the adoption of the constitution in 1792—namely, "The Dutch Reformed Church in North America" and "The Reformed Dutch Church in the United States of America." In 1819 the church was incorporated as "The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church." In 1867 the name was changed to "The Reformed Church in America."

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
REFORMED CHURCH IN 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..   | 717                      | 714                      | \$5,524,673  | \$4,319,919                           | \$1,195,917                      | \$8,837        | 689                | 11,837                | 124,308  |
| New York.....     | 294                      | 294                      | 2,372,394    | 1,941,060                             | 423,605                          | 7,729          | 277                | 4,474                 | 42,819   |
| New Jersey.....   | 152                      | 152                      | 1,411,380    | 1,157,198                             | 254,182                          | -----          | 149                | 3,328                 | 32,075   |
| Pennsylvania..... | 8                        | 8                        | 54,298       | 46,117                                | 8,181                            | -----          | 7                  | 128                   | 1,617    |
| Indiana.....      | 4                        | 4                        | 14,215       | 10,314                                | 3,901                            | -----          | 4                  | 33                    | 358      |
| Illinois.....     | 29                       | 29                       | 296,834      | 214,343                               | 82,491                           | -----          | 29                 | 572                   | 6,612    |
| Michigan.....     | 86                       | 86                       | 744,251      | 529,943                               | 214,308                          | -----          | 85                 | 1,591                 | 21,392   |
| Wisconsin.....    | 14                       | 14                       | 129,371      | 77,214                                | 52,157                           | -----          | 14                 | 249                   | 3,087    |
| Minnesota.....    | 14                       | 14                       | 43,575       | 28,540                                | 15,035                           | -----          | 13                 | 135                   | 1,755    |
| Iowa.....         | 60                       | 59                       | 301,404      | 193,776                               | 107,628                          | -----          | 56                 | 802                   | 9,169    |
| North Dakota..... | 5                        | 5                        | 8,814        | 5,835                                 | 2,979                            | -----          | 5                  | 34                    | 380      |
| South Dakota..... | 25                       | 25                       | 66,464       | 52,551                                | 13,913                           | -----          | 25                 | 224                   | 2,156    |
| Nebraska.....     | 4                        | 3                        | 15,945       | 9,811                                 | 6,134                            | -----          | 4                  | 60                    | 683      |
| Kansas.....       | 3                        | 3                        | 6,888        | 5,535                                 | 1,353                            | -----          | 3                  | 28                    | 325      |
| Oklahoma.....     | 3                        | 3                        | 1,863        | 816                                   | 1,047                            | -----          | 2                  | 21                    | 234      |
| New Mexico.....   | 3                        | 3                        | 15,320       | 15,200                                | 120                              | -----          | 3                  | 13                    | 109      |
| Washington.....   | 3                        | 3                        | 11,224       | 8,890                                 | 2,334                            | -----          | 3                  | 38                    | 469      |
| Other States..... | 10                       | 9                        | 30,433       | 22,776                                | 6,549                            | 1,108          | 10                 | 107                   | 1,068    |

The church spread and grew strong in New York and New Jersey. In the middle of the nineteenth century it received an increment of great importance and promise in the large Dutch immigration. This immigration was made up of whole congregations which, with their ministers, sought relief from religious troubles in the homeland. In 1850 the first of these congregations became formally a part of the Reformed Church in America. These people settled in the North and Middle West, beginning in Michigan and Iowa. The coming of such colonists continued, their descendants multiplied, and they spread through these and neighboring States. New congregations were and are still constantly being formed. Thus, in the West, as well as in the East, the strength of the church has increased. An outgrowth of the Dutch settlement and religious life in the West was the founding of Hope College at Holland, Mich., in 1866, and of the Western Theological Seminary. There are, in addition, three classical academies. Central College at Pella, Iowa, has been added to the educational institutions since 1916.

The earliest efforts of the church toward general extension in domestic mission lines were begun in 1786, when the church at Saratoga petitioned the synod for a minister, and a committee was appointed to devise some plan of preaching the gospel in destitute localities. This was followed by similar applications from Dutch families in Pennsylvania and Kentucky, while a number of churches in Canada were also cared for. For many years the Classis of Albany acted as agent of the synod in looking after such localities in the North, and the Canadian churches were subsequently transferred to the Presbyterians. In 1806 the General Synod assumed the management of all missionary operations, and it continued to send out itinerants, though not a few of the churches planted failed to develop on account of lack of frequent ministrations.



TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS, 1926: REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

| PARTICULAR SYNOD<br>AND CLASSIS | of                          |                              | VALUE<br>OF CHURCH<br>EDIFICES |                     | DEBT<br>ON CHURCH<br>EDIFICES |                    | EXPENDITURES<br>DURING YEAR |                    | SUNDAY<br>SCHOOLS     |                                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                 | Total<br>number<br>churches | Number<br>of<br>mem-<br>bers | Churches<br>reporting          | Amount              | Churches<br>reporting         | Amount             | Churches<br>reporting       | Amount             | Churches<br>reporting | Num-<br>ber of<br>schol-<br>ars |
|                                 |                             |                              |                                |                     |                               |                    |                             |                    |                       |                                 |
| <b>Total</b> .....              | <b>717</b>                  | <b>153,739</b>               | <b>690</b>                     | <b>\$38,436,822</b> | <b>250</b>                    | <b>\$2,580,473</b> | <b>714</b>                  | <b>\$5,524,673</b> | <b>689</b>            | <b>124,308</b>                  |
| <b>Synod of Albany:</b>         |                             |                              |                                |                     |                               |                    |                             |                    |                       |                                 |
| Albany.....                     | 18                          | 3,383                        | 18                             | 940,000             | 2                             | 21,500             | 18                          | 123,477            | 18                    | 2,725                           |
| Greene.....                     | 6                           | 1,332                        | 5                              | 235,000             |                               |                    | 6                           | 35,340             | 5                     | 601                             |
| Montgomery.....                 | 29                          | 4,924                        | 28                             | 991,400             | 4                             | 21,100             | 29                          | 126,169            | 23                    | 3,386                           |
| Rensselaer.....                 | 14                          | 2,095                        | 14                             | 553,000             | 1                             | 300                | 14                          | 41,782             | 14                    | 1,350                           |
| Rochester.....                  | 18                          | 3,680                        | 18                             | 259,700             | 8                             | 15,800             | 18                          | 92,328             | 18                    | 3,333                           |
| Saratoga.....                   | 10                          | 1,451                        | 10                             | 346,000             | 2                             | 19,675             | 10                          | 42,547             | 10                    | 901                             |
| Schenectady.....                | 16                          | 4,903                        | 16                             | 1,058,000           | 6                             | 50,700             | 16                          | 117,521            | 16                    | 3,496                           |
| Schoharie.....                  | 9                           | 838                          | 9                              | 52,000              |                               |                    | 9                           | 15,312             | 9                     | 606                             |
| <b>Synod of Chicago:</b>        |                             |                              |                                |                     |                               |                    |                             |                    |                       |                                 |
| Chicago.....                    | 20                          | 4,987                        | 20                             | 824,000             | 9                             | 92,500             | 20                          | 192,879            | 20                    | 4,536                           |
| Grand Rapids.....               | 24                          | 7,248                        | 23                             | 1,026,650           | 19                            | 264,935            | 24                          | 304,541            | 24                    | 6,910                           |
| Holland.....                    | 26                          | 7,566                        | 26                             | 621,150             | 11                            | 37,860             | 26                          | 223,792            | 26                    | 7,460                           |
| Illinois.....                   | 6                           | 1,342                        | 6                              | 386,000             | 4                             | 133,500            | 6                           | 94,692             | 6                     | 1,605                           |
| Kalamazoo.....                  | 18                          | 3,245                        | 18                             | 433,000             | 10                            | 57,777             | 18                          | 110,606            | 18                    | 3,439                           |
| Muskegon.....                   | 19                          | 3,466                        | 19                             | 376,100             | 8                             | 62,050             | 19                          | 113,276            | 18                    | 3,833                           |
| Wisconsin.....                  | 15                          | 4,429                        | 15                             | 394,600             | 5                             | 10,200             | 15                          | 138,858            | 15                    | 3,476                           |
| <b>Synod of Iowa:</b>           |                             |                              |                                |                     |                               |                    |                             |                    |                       |                                 |
| Cascades.....                   | 7                           | 787                          | 6                              | 39,000              | 4                             | 8,400              | 7                           | 23,917             | 7                     | 643                             |
| Dakota.....                     | 19                          | 1,710                        | 17                             | 106,500             | 10                            | 14,860             | 19                          | 56,592             | 19                    | 1,775                           |
| Germania.....                   | 16                          | 1,181                        | 16                             | 114,200             | 5                             | 7,260              | 16                          | 47,666             | 16                    | 1,571                           |
| Pella.....                      | 12                          | 2,587                        | 12                             | 230,100             | 2                             | 4,000              | 11                          | 59,306             | 10                    | 2,482                           |
| Pleasant Prairie.....           | 22                          | 2,126                        | 22                             | 260,000             | 6                             | 6,960              | 22                          | 72,896             | 21                    | 2,469                           |
| East Sioux.....                 | 23                          | 3,583                        | 21                             | 276,000             | 12                            | 34,030             | 23                          | 106,622            | 22                    | 3,329                           |
| West Sioux.....                 | 25                          | 3,581                        | 22                             | 307,680             | 15                            | 71,976             | 25                          | 119,065            | 24                    | 3,284                           |
| <b>Synod of New Brunswick:</b>  |                             |                              |                                |                     |                               |                    |                             |                    |                       |                                 |
| Bergen.....                     | 17                          | 3,905                        | 16                             | 1,080,000           | 7                             | 82,640             | 17                          | 149,742            | 17                    | 4,101                           |
| South Bergen.....               | 11                          | 3,710                        | 8                              | 778,000             | 2                             | 40,500             | 11                          | 120,737            | 11                    | 2,371                           |
| Monmouth.....                   | 9                           | 1,603                        | 9                              | 309,000             | 4                             | 45,600             | 9                           | 46,381             | 8                     | 1,166                           |
| Newark.....                     | 20                          | 6,526                        | 20                             | 2,699,000           | 14                            | 192,500            | 20                          | 268,920            | 19                    | 4,795                           |
| New Brunswick.....              | 15                          | 3,683                        | 14                             | 829,800             | 4                             | 45,900             | 15                          | 106,826            | 15                    | 2,631                           |
| Palisades.....                  | 14                          | 4,807                        | 13                             | 798,000             | 8                             | 58,200             | 14                          | 153,525            | 14                    | 4,462                           |
| Paramus.....                    | 31                          | 7,032                        | 31                             | 1,785,300           | 12                            | 132,200            | 31                          | 285,611            | 30                    | 6,351                           |
| Passaic.....                    | 18                          | 4,953                        | 18                             | 904,000             | 5                             | 100,900            | 18                          | 190,261            | 18                    | 3,936                           |
| Philadelphia.....               | 12                          | 2,610                        | 12                             | 518,000             | 3                             | 12,000             | 12                          | 77,223             | 12                    | 2,127                           |
| Raritan.....                    | 16                          | 3,946                        | 16                             | 783,760             | 2                             | 14,000             | 16                          | 99,454             | 16                    | 2,379                           |
| <b>Synod of New York:</b>       |                             |                              |                                |                     |                               |                    |                             |                    |                       |                                 |
| Hudson.....                     | 10                          | 1,912                        | 10                             | 199,000             | 1                             | 1,800              | 10                          | 44,924             | 10                    | 1,039                           |
| North Long Island.....          | 27                          | 6,319                        | 25                             | 1,688,000           | 11                            | 124,500            | 27                          | 259,309            | 25                    | 5,434                           |
| South Long Island.....          | 19                          | 6,578                        | 19                             | 2,959,750           | 7                             | 62,900             | 19                          | 286,081            | 19                    | 5,287                           |
| New York.....                   | 43                          | 11,140                       | 37                             | 9,358,500           | 18                            | 373,500            | 41                          | 618,354            | 41                    | 6,403                           |
| Orange.....                     | 23                          | 3,627                        | 22                             | 610,000             | 2                             | 4,800              | 23                          | 88,237             | 20                    | 2,121                           |
| Poughkeepsie.....               | 13                          | 2,238                        | 12                             | 688,000             | 2                             | 205,000            | 13                          | 77,822             | 12                    | 1,287                           |
| Ulster.....                     | 32                          | 4,775                        | 32                             | 1,151,500           | 2                             | 19,100             | 32                          | 97,853             | 28                    | 2,607                           |
| Westchester.....                | 15                          | 3,936                        | 15                             | 1,467,132           | 3                             | 128,750            | 15                          | 294,229            | 15                    | 2,601                           |

In 1822 several private individuals formed the Missionary Society of the Reformed Dutch Church, which was soon adopted by the synod. A similar organization was started at Albany in 1828, and in 1831 the Board of Domestic Missions was organized. From that time the movement became more aggressive. In 1837 a church was organized in Illinois, followed in a few years by churches in Michigan and Wisconsin. With the development of Dutch immigration in the West, the demand for missionary labor increased, and the board was reorganized in 1849. Five years later the plan of a church building fund to aid needy churches was proposed.

The foreign missionary interests of the church were of early origin, some of the earliest Dutch ministers engaging also in work for the Indians. In 1796 the New York Missionary Society was formed by members of the Presbyterian, Reformed Dutch, and Baptist churches. This was succeeded in 1816 by the

United Missionary Society, which in 1826 was merged in the American Board;<sup>2</sup> but in 1832 a plan was adopted by which the Reformed Church in America, retaining its general connection with that board, conducted its own missions, developing work in India, China, Japan, and later in Arabia.

The necessity for an adequate and adequately trained ministry led very early in the history of the church to the formation of "Cent Societies" and "Education Societies" in individual churches and classes, the purpose of these being in each instance the financial aid of students for the ministry. On May 7, 1828, a group of ministers and elders of the Collegiate Church of New York met and organized "The Education Society of the Reformed Dutch Church" and raised funds for the aid of such students. In 1831 this society was adopted by the General Synod and renamed "The Board of Education of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church," and it has functioned in this field since that time. The board was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in 1869. Its functions have been enlarged from time to time. Its activities at present are outlined in the section on "Work."

#### DOCTRINE

The doctrinal standards of the Reformed Church in America are the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of the Synod of Dort. The church is thus a distinctively Calvinistic body. It has a liturgy for optional use in public worship, with forms of prayer. Some parts of the liturgy, as those for the administration of baptism and the Lord's Supper and for the ordination of ministers, elders, and deacons, are obligatory; the forms of prayer, the marriage service, etc., are not obligatory. Children are "baptized as heirs of the Kingdom of God and of His Covenant;" adults are baptized (by sprinkling or immersion, as preferred) on profession of repentance for sin and faith in Christ. All baptized persons are considered members of the church, are under its care, and are subject to its government and discipline. No subscription to a specific form of words being required, admission to communion and full membership is on confession of faith before the elders and minister.

Ministers on being ordained are required to subscribe to the standards and polity of the church.

#### ORGANIZATION

The polity of the Reformed Church is presbyterian. The government of the local church is under the control of a consistory which is composed of the minister, elders, and deacons, who are elected by the members of the church over 18 years of age. The minister and elders have particular care of the spiritual interests and the deacons of the collection of alms and relief of the poor and distressed. The Collegiate Church (College of Churches) is a collection of worshiping congregations under the governance of a single consistory.

The classis, which has immediate supervision of the churches and the ministry, consists of all the ministers within a certain district, and an elder from each consistory within that district, collegiate churches being entitled to an elder for each worshiping assembly. The classes of a certain district are combined in a particular synod, composed of four ministers and four elders from every classis within its bounds, which acts as an intermediate court in certain cases but has special supervision of church activities within its borders. The highest court of the church is the General Synod. It consists of ministers and elders

<sup>2</sup> The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, organized in 1810 as an interdenominational society, is now a distinctively Congregational society. See *Congregational Churches*, p. 454.

from each classis nominated by the classes to the particular synods, which have power to appoint them as delegates to the General Synod. In default of nomination by a classis the particular synod makes appointments. Classes meet semiannually in the spring and fall; the particular synods, annually in May; the General Synod, annually in June.

The Reformed Church in America is a member of the Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the World holding the Presbyterian system. It is also a constituent member of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and is represented on the commission on a world conference on questions of faith and order. It maintains English services at The Hague, in the Netherlands, during the summer season.

#### WORK

The home missionary work of the church is carried on largely through the Board of Domestic Missions. This board aids weak churches and founds new churches of the denomination throughout the country, assists by grant or loan in the erection of church buildings, organizes Bible schools, and employs missionaries in evangelistic work without special reference to the founding of new churches. During 1926 it supported, in whole or in part, 222 churches and missions, reaching 10,206 families and 20,923 Bible school scholars by the services of 206 ministers, aside from Bible school teachers.

An allied agency is the Women's Board of Domestic Missions, which maintains work in the Kentucky mountains and among the American Indians. It also cooperates with the Board of Domestic Missions in work among the Indians in the State of Chiapas, Mexico. The total receipts of both boards in 1926 were \$465,693.

The foreign missionary work of the church is carried on by the Board of Foreign Missions. The Arabian Mission, independently inaugurated in 1889, was adopted by the Reformed Church in America in 1894. Its separate board of trustees was merged with the Board of Foreign Missions in 1925. Work is carried on in China, India, Japan, Arabia, and Mesopotamia. The 1926 report gives 27 stations and 379 outstations, 177 missionaries, 1,211 native helpers, 64 churches with 8,903 communicant members, and 331 Sunday schools with 13,300 scholars. The educational department reports 3 theological schools, 11 colleges and academies, 23 secondary schools, and 305 primary schools, with a total enrollment of 18,452 scholars. There were 18 hospitals and dispensaries in which 111,000 patients were treated and 3 orphanages with 120 inmates. The total amount contributed for foreign work in 1926 was \$467,751, the total value of property is estimated at \$1,000,000, and there are endowments amounting to \$600,000. The Woman's Board of Foreign Missions is an auxiliary organization, actively cooperating in all fields.

For 25 years after the organization of the board (1832) it worked in connection with the American Board. In 1857 it withdrew and since then has conducted its own foreign missionary enterprise. In recent years it has united with other boards and societies in a variety of common enterprises, especially in the educational field. The indigenous churches which have grown up are union organizations, looking toward the development of self-governing and self-propagating national churches.

The work of the Board of Education lies in three distinct fields, as follows:

1. Student aid: Scholarships have been established for the aid of students for the ministry of the Reformed Church, the income of which, supplemented by gifts from the churches, enables the board to provide scholarship aid for an average of nearly 100 persons each year. In addition to students for the ministry, aid is granted to medical students who have in mind foreign mission work

under the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church. The amount thus granted in aid is repayable only if the recipient fails to serve for a period of five years after graduation (seven years in the case of medical missionary students).

2. Recruiting for the ministry: Initiative and leadership in this field are delegated to this board.

3. Relationship to the 5 academies, 2 colleges, and 2 theological seminaries of the Reformed Church in America: This relationship has been defined as one of "advice, counsel, and cooperation." The cooperation consists in large measure of grants from available funds for the current expenses of the various institutions, made necessary by the fact that practically all of them are inadequately endowed. The total expenditures of the board for all purposes during 1926 were \$93,360.

The Board of Publication and Bible School Work publishes and sells religious books, church and church school supplies, and the minutes of the General Synod. Through its department of religious education it directs and promotes the work of Sunday schools and young people's societies. Through its committee on evangelism it is responsible for the building and promotion of evangelistic programs. It also donates hymnals, liturgies, and other supplies to needy churches and Sunday schools.

The 1926 report shows 826 young people's societies of various names and purposes, with a total membership of 22,444; 57 week-day church schools, with an enrollment of 3,599; and 54 vacation church schools, with an enrollment of 4,140. The total amount contributed by Bible schools to the board for 1926 was \$1,395; to all other boards of the church, \$107,602.

The ministers' fund was incorporated in 1923 to take over the administration of the widows' fund and the disabled ministers' fund and to secure and administer an endowment of \$1,000,000 for the ministerial pension fund. The plan for this endowment calls for its completion in 1928 as a part of the tercentenary celebration. The 1926 report showed 218 beneficiaries of the two funds. The total income for the year was \$179,995.

The American Bible Society is one of the recognized agencies of the church and is included in the general budget of benevolences.

In 1918 a progress campaign committee was organized as an agency in which the various boards cooperated to coordinate and unify their promotional activities. In 1923 this was succeeded by the Progress Council, through which the boards face common responsibilities and unite in common efforts. The council has also such other functions and duties as may be assigned from time to time by the General Synod.