

METHODIST BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Methodist churches of America, in common with those of England and other lands, trace their origin to a movement started in Oxford University in 1729, when John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, and a number of others began to meet for religious exercises. Finding as they read the Bible that, as John Wesley expressed it, they "could not be saved without holiness, they followed after it, and incited others so to do." During the succeeding years the little company was derisively called "The Holy Club," "Bible Bigots," "Methodists," etc.; and this last term, intended to describe their methodical habits, seems to have been accepted by them almost immediately, as the movement they led soon became widely known as the "Methodist movement." The next step and its outcome are described by John Wesley as follows: "They saw likewise that men are justified before they are sanctified, but still holiness was their object. God then thrust them out to raise a holy people. * * * In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to me in London and desired that I would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come; this was the rise of the United Society."

About this time, the Wesleys came into intimate relations with the Moravians, first on a visit to America¹ and subsequently in London, and at their headquarters in Herrnhut, Saxony, and to the influence of these conferences may be traced much of the spiritual power of the new movement.

The three leaders, although ordained ministers of the Church of England, soon found themselves excluded from many of the pulpits of the Established Church on the ground that they were preachers of new doctrines, and they were obliged to hold their meetings in private houses, halls, barns, and in the fields. As converts were received they were organized into societies for worship, and as the work expanded class meetings were formed for the religious care and training of members. Then the circuit system was established, by which several congregations were grouped under the care of one lay preacher; the itinerancy came into existence, as the lay preachers were transferred from one appointment to another for greater efficiency; and finally, in 1744, the annual conference was instituted, in which Mr. Wesley met all his workers. Thus the principal distinctive features of the Methodist organization grew out of the necessities of the work.

As was natural, the doctrinal position accorded in the main with that of the Church of England, and the Articles of Religion were largely formulated from the Thirty-nine Articles of that church, although no formal creed was accepted save the Apostles' Creed. The stricter doctrines of Calvinism, predestination, and reprobation were cast aside, and the milder emphasis of Arminianism on repentance, faith, and holiness was accepted. As John Wesley said: "The first of these we count as it were the porch of religion; the next, the door; the third, religion itself." This acceptance of Arminianism caused a divergence, though not a permanent breach, between the Wesleys and Whitefield. Whitefield was Calvinistic, though not of the extreme type, and became identified with the Calvinistic Methodists, both the Welsh body² and the Countess of Huntingdon's Connection. He afterwards withdrew from the leadership of the latter body, and gave himself to general revival work in England and America.

¹ See Methodist Episcopal Church, p. 926.

² See Presbyterian bodies, p. 1112.

Though the Wesleys lived and died in full ministerial relations with the Church of England, serious differences arose, as already noted, between that church and the Methodists. In 1745 John Wesley wrote that he was willing to make any concession which conscience would permit, in order to live in harmony with the clergy of the Established Church, but he could not give up the doctrines he was preaching, dissolve the societies, suppress lay preaching, or cease to preach in the open air. For many years he refused to sanction the administration of the sacraments by any except those who had been ordained by a bishop in the apostolic succession, and he himself hesitated to assume authority to ordain; but the Bishop of London having refused to ordain ministers for the Methodist societies in America, which were left by the Revolutionary War without the sacraments, Wesley, in 1784, by the laying on of hands, appointed or ordained men and gave them authority to ordain others. He thus ordained Thomas Coke, D. C. L., who was already a presbyter of the Church of England, to be superintendent of the Methodist societies in America, and set apart for a similar purpose in Great Britain Alexander Mather, who had not been episcopally ordained.

The development of church government, while following the general lines laid down by Wesley, was somewhat different in England and in America. In England the conference remained supreme, and the superintendency was not emphasized. In America the superintendency was in fact an episcopacy which, while not corresponding exactly to the episcopacy of the Church of England, became a very decided factor in church life. In each country, but especially in America, considerable opposition has developed at different times in connection with some features of the parent body, and divisions have resulted. In every case, however, the general principles of the founders have been preserved, and, notwithstanding the various separations, the Wesleyan Methodist Connection in England and the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States remain the strongest representatives of the movement initiated in Oxford nearly two centuries ago.

It is to be noted that the influence of the Methodist doctrine and church organization has not been confined to those bodies which have adopted the name Methodist, but has been manifest in the development of a number of bodies which use modified forms of the episcopal, presbyterial, and congregational systems. In the United States several bodies, including the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Church (now one denomination), the United Brethren bodies, and particularly the large number of organizations emphasizing the doctrine of "holiness," or entire sanctification, claim to be true exponents of the doctrines of the Wesleys, while their polity is generally Methodist in type. On the other hand, the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, with whom Whitefield identified himself, were Presbyterian in polity, though Methodist in every other respect, as are the Wesleyan Methodist and some other Methodist churches in England and America.

STATISTICS

The denominations grouped as Methodists in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed in the following table with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. Since 1916 there have been some changes. The African American Methodist Episcopal Church has disbanded. Other bodies have been added—the Reformed Methodist Church, the Independent African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Holiness Methodist Church, the last an organization listed in 1916 as the Lumber River Mission under the Evangelistic Associations. For general convenience of reference the Negro bodies have been grouped together in 1926, as in 1916. There were 15 independent churches reported at the 1890 census, with a membership of 2,569; these were not reported as a group, however, at the two succeeding censuses, probably having been absorbed by various denominations.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE METHODIST 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 (dollars)	Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	60,644	8,070,619	56,493	654,736,975	59,483	152,151,978	54,804	6,567,654
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	26,130	4,080,777	25,290	406,165,659	25,790	89,422,307	24,730	3,796,561
Methodist Protestant Church.....	2,239	192,171	2,064	16,817,278	2,160	3,137,211	1,917	173,438
Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America.....	619	21,910	555	1,804,719	585	773,981	561	34,314
Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.....	80	11,990	79	1,676,800	80	326,598	78	15,190
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.....	18,096	2,487,694	16,443	161,986,430	17,798	41,651,150	15,525	1,802,464
Congregational Methodist Church.....	145	9,691	110	127,775	120	29,529	80	4,807
Free Methodist Church of North America.....	1,375	36,374	1,140	4,921,760	1,269	1,617,802	1,026	69,549
New Congregational Methodist Church.....	26	1,229	21	23,900	19	1,234	3	126
Holiness Methodist Church.....	7	459	7	18,500	7	2,073	7	531
Reformed Methodist Church.....	14	390	13	26,300	13	9,176	12	356
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	6,708	545,814	5,829	32,092,549	6,492	7,600,161	5,884	288,247
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.....	2,466	456,813	2,370	18,515,723	2,464	4,757,066	2,429	267,141
Colored Methodist Protestant Church.....	3	533	3	36,000	3	6,685	3	98
Union American Methodist Episcopal Church.....	73	10,169	64	478,951	68	222,621	69	4,240
African Union Methodist Protestant Church.....	43	4,086	40	476,269	43	99,563	42	2,851
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.....	2,518	202,713	2,341	9,211,437	2,477	2,428,234	2,351	103,523
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church.....	48	4,538	45	184,075	44	37,601	42	2,882
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church.....	25	2,265	21	74,800	24	17,282	19	673
Independent African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	29	1,003	28	98,050	27	11,704	26	663
1916								
Total for the group	65,686	7,166,451	60,982	317,916,402	64,139	70,887,406	59,191	6,473,500
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	29,315	3,717,785	28,134	215,104,014	28,791	43,993,681	27,549	3,872,264
Methodist Protestant Church.....	2,473	186,908	2,266	7,944,467	2,393	1,509,243	2,081	177,918
Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America.....	579	20,778	514	787,731	525	329,294	500	29,850
Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.....	93	9,353	91	829,035	92	147,695	90	14,918
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.....	19,184	2,114,479	17,133	62,428,433	18,751	17,139,398	16,308	1,688,559
Congregational Methodist Church.....	197	12,503	195	166,932	139	13,806	147	8,034
Free Methodist Church of North America.....	1,598	35,291	1,205	2,236,325	1,426	772,038	1,150	58,553
New Congregational Methodist Church.....	24	1,256	18	14,450	16	1,372	6	302
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	6,633	548,355	6,232	14,631,792	6,516	3,413,395	6,084	311,051
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.....	2,716	257,169	2,475	7,591,393	2,641	1,700,737	2,535	135,102
Colored Methodist Protestant Church.....	26	1,967	16	52,733	23	12,129	24	870
Union American Methodist Episcopal Church.....	67	3,624	59	182,305	65	40,664	54	1,982
African Union Methodist Protestant Church.....	58	3,751	53	205,825	53	47,231	49	2,813
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.....	2,621	245,749	2,490	5,619,862	2,613	1,736,692	2,541	167,880
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church.....	47	3,977	47	79,325	41	13,156	42	2,505
African American Methodist Episcopal Church.....	28	1,310	27	6,280	28	13,455	6	200
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church.....	27	2,196	27	35,500	26	3,420	25	699

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE METHODIST BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906—Con.

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1906								
Total for the group	64,255	5,749,838	59,077	229,450,996			55,227	4,472,930
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	29,742	2,986,154	27,888	163,357,805			26,809	2,700,742
Union American Methodist Episcopal Church (Colored).....	77	4,347	59	170,150			76	3,372
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	6,608	494,777	6,299	11,303,489			6,056	292,689
African Union Methodist Protestant Church.....	69	5,592	68	183,697			66	5,266
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.....	2,197	184,542	2,104	4,833,207			2,060	107,692
Methodist Protestant Church.....	2,825	178,544	2,442	6,053,048			2,118	141,086
Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America.....	591	20,043	480	637,117			475	21,463
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.....	17,683	1,638,480	15,859	37,278,424			13,846	1,040,160
Congregational Methodist Church.....	324	14,729	250	194,275			181	8,785
New Congregational Methodist Church.....	35	1,782	33	27,650			27	1,298
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.....	2,365	172,996	2,264	3,017,849			2,207	92,457
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church (Colored).....	45	3,059	41	37,875			35	1,508
Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.....	96	7,558	93	630,700			91	13,177
Free Methodist Church of North America.....	1,541	32,838	1,140	1,688,745			1,066	41,443
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church (Colored).....	57	4,397	57	36,965			54	1,792

COLORED METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STATISTICS

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

The membership of this denomination includes those persons received into the local churches upon profession of faith and baptism.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	2,518	567	1,951	22.5	77.5
Members	202,713	79,183	123,530	39.1	60.9
Average per church.....	81	140	63		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	65,781	24,945	40,836	37.9	62.1
Female.....	107,807	43,113	64,694	40.0	60.0
Sex not reported.....	29,125	11,125	18,000	38.2	61.8
Males per 100 females.....	61.0	57.9	63.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	14,964	6,044	8,920	40.4	59.6
13 years and over.....	129,643	54,613	75,030	42.1	57.9
Age not reported.....	58,106	18,526	39,580	31.9	68.1
Per cent under 13 years ²	10.3	10.0	10.6		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	2,346	524	1,822	22.3	77.7
Value—Churches reporting.....	2,341	521	1,820	22.3	77.7
Amount reported.....	\$9,211,437	\$5,791,115	\$3,420,322	62.9	37.1
Average per church.....	\$3,935	\$11,115	\$1,879		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	591	229	362	38.7	61.3
Amount reported.....	\$960,124	\$821,462	\$138,662	85.6	14.4
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	1,540	257	1,283	16.7	83.3
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	530	245	285	46.2	53.8
Amount reported.....	\$984,660	\$705,400	\$279,260	71.6	28.4
Debt—Churches reporting.....	109	65	44	59.6	40.4
Amount reported.....	\$93,929	\$84,914	\$9,015	90.4	9.6
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	357	159	198	44.5	55.5
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	2,477	558	1,919	22.5	77.5
Amount reported.....	\$2,428,234	\$1,191,659	\$1,236,575	49.1	50.9
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,934,540	\$962,220	\$972,320	49.7	50.3
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$417,038	\$189,414	\$227,624	45.4	54.6
Not classified.....	\$76,656	\$40,025	\$36,631	52.2	47.8
Average expenditure per church.....	\$980	\$2,136	\$644		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	2,351	540	1,811	23.0	77.0
Officers and teachers.....	15,666	4,413	11,253	28.2	71.8
Scholars.....	103,523	34,571	68,952	33.4	66.6

¹ Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.

² Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 2,518 active Colored Methodist Episcopal churches, with 202,713 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 2,233 churches and the classification by age was reported by 1,788 churches, including 1,224 which reported 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: COLORED METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	2,518	2,621	2,365	1,759
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-103	256	606	
Per cent.....	-3.9	10.8	34.5	
Members	202,713	245,749	172,996	129,388
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-43,036	72,753	43,613	
Per cent.....	-17.5	42.1	33.7	
Average membership per church.....	81	94	73	74
Church edifices:				
Number.....	2,346	2,490	2,327	1,653
Value—Churches reporting.....	2,341	2,490	2,264	
Amount reported.....	\$9,211,437	\$5,619,862	\$3,017,849	\$1,713,366
Average per church.....	\$3,935	\$2,257	\$1,333	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	591	828	692	
Amount reported.....	\$960,124	\$311,066	\$215,111	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	530	525	421	
Amount reported.....	\$984,660	\$552,106	\$237,547	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	109			
Amount reported.....	\$93,929			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	2,477	2,613		
Amount reported.....	\$2,428,234	\$1,736,692		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,934,540	\$1,357,413		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$417,038	\$379,279		
Not classified.....	\$76,656			
Average expenditure per church.....	\$980	\$665		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	2,351	2,541	2,207	
Officers and teachers.....	15,666	18,890	12,375	
Scholars.....	103,523	167,880	92,457	

¹ A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each conference in the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

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

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 ⁽¹⁾
United States.....	2,518	567	1,951	202,713	79,183	123,530	65,781	107,807	29,125	61.0
New England:										
Massachusetts.....	1	1		39	39		20	19		
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	3	3		920	920		385	535		72.0
New Jersey.....	8	5	3	433	366	67	128	305		42.0
Pennsylvania.....	15	9	6	1,510	1,135	375	568	942		60.3
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	26	23	3	2,789	2,623	166	1,178	1,611		73.1
Indiana.....	11	9	2	1,505	1,470	35	310	522	673	59.4
Illinois.....	26	20	6	6,395	6,208	187	1,644	2,951	1,800	55.7
Michigan.....	9	9		1,946	1,946		775	1,087	84	71.3
Wisconsin.....	1	1		164	164		64	100		64.0
West North Central:										
Iowa.....	2	2		100	100		25	75		
Missouri.....	33	18	15	5,520	4,961	559	856	1,630	3,034	52.5
Nebraska.....	1	1		161	161		37	124		29.8
Kansas.....	15	12	3	1,166	1,096	70	433	733		59.1
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	2	2		103	103		47	56		
Maryland.....	5	3	2	363	233	130	139	224		62.1
District of Columbia.....	4	4		1,012	1,012		278	734		37.9
Virginia.....	32	10	22	2,175	888	1,287	861	1,314		65.5
West Virginia.....	5	2	3	134	72	62	53	81		
North Carolina.....	37	14	23	4,867	2,844	2,023	1,758	3,041	68	57.8
South Carolina.....	78	14	64	4,778	1,651	3,127	1,801	2,977		60.5
Georgia.....	366	42	324	31,292	7,914	23,378	5,947	9,863	15,482	60.3
Florida.....	68	25	43	5,111	2,685	2,426	1,982	2,741	388	72.3
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	97	26	71	7,715	4,190	3,525	2,927	4,729	59	61.9
Tennessee.....	211	54	157	25,198	10,599	14,599	8,911	16,034	253	55.6
Alabama.....	300	51	249	20,983	5,544	15,439	5,906	10,209	4,868	57.9
Mississippi.....	370	29	341	25,659	2,536	23,123	10,275	15,314	70	67.1
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	220	28	192	10,887	2,855	8,032	4,146	6,741		61.5
Louisiana.....	154	23	131	11,374	2,369	9,005	4,505	6,869		65.6
Oklahoma.....	85	33	52	3,834	2,115	1,719	1,399	2,435		57.5
Texas.....	312	78	234	22,737	8,685	14,052	7,793	12,598	2,346	61.9
Mountain:										
Colorado.....	1	1		100	100		20	80		
New Mexico.....	3	3		64	64		22	42		
Arizona.....	5	2	3	245	128	117	108	137		78.8
Pacific:										
California.....	12	10	2	1,434	1,407	27	480	954		50.3

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

From the earliest appearance of Methodists in the South, considerable evangelistic work was carried on among the slaves. Special missions were begun as early as 1829 for those on the plantations who were not privileged to organize churches. In 1844-45, when the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South took definite form, there were in that church 158,000 colored members,

¹ This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Bishop R. S. Williams, official statistician, Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, 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: COLORED METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	2,518	2,621	2,365	202,713	245,749	172,996	14,964	129,643	58,106	10.3
New York.....	3			920			108	812		11.7
New Jersey.....	8	5		433	126		61	362	10	14.4
Pennsylvania.....	15	6	5	1,510	634	466	158	1,352		10.5
Ohio.....	26	5	4	2,789	441	211	352	2,389	48	12.8
Indiana.....	11	3	1	1,505	258	40	217	608	680	26.3
Illinois.....	26	15	11	6,395	1,865	603	258	4,337	1,800	5.6
Michigan.....	9	1		1,946	110		247	1,615	84	13.3
Missouri.....	33	28	24	5,520	3,282	1,980	295	2,073	3,152	12.5
Kansas.....	15	21	19	1,166	1,511	917	168	978	20	14.7
Maryland.....	5	4	5	363	348	240	21	192	150	9.9
District of Columbia.....	4	4	5	1,012	840	1,110	45	567	400	7.4
Virginia.....	32	26	34	2,175	2,717	1,514	169	1,293	713	11.6
West Virginia.....	5	1	3	134	37	72	5	55	74	
North Carolina.....	37	46	39	4,867	3,274	2,209	498	4,036	333	11.0
South Carolina.....	78	81	72	4,778	7,342	4,850	654	4,006	118	14.0
Georgia.....	366	456	397	31,292	49,976	34,501	1,683	13,433	16,176	11.1
Florida.....	68	65	48	5,111	2,832	1,858	477	4,180	454	10.2
Kentucky.....	97	96	98	7,715	8,911	8,137	590	6,865	260	7.9
Tennessee.....	211	209	209	25,198	30,106	20,634	1,568	22,533	1,097	6.5
Alabama.....	300	335	290	20,983	34,587	23,112	1,845	12,365	6,773	13.0
Mississippi.....	370	367	346	25,659	33,070	25,814	1,493	11,639	12,527	11.4
Arkansas.....	220	216	206	10,887	15,269	11,506	859	9,973	55	7.9
Louisiana.....	154	177	169	11,374	13,762	11,728	1,105	6,758	3,511	14.1
Oklahoma.....	85	99	86	3,834	5,541	2,858	181	1,650	2,003	9.9
Texas.....	312	341	288	22,737	28,449	18,428	1,688	13,457	7,592	11.1
New Mexico.....	3	6	3	64	79	82	14	50		
Arizona.....	5	2	3	245	88	126	53	192		21.6
California.....	12	5		1,434	252		92	1,266	76	6.8
Other States.....	8	1		667	42		60	607		9.0

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

and in 1860 over 200,000. On account of general demoralization at the close of the Civil War large numbers of these joined other colored Methodist churches already organized, leaving about 80,000 remaining in the parent church.

The Emancipation Proclamation produced at once a crisis in the affairs of the colored church members. Before the War, so far as the Methodist churches were concerned, the slaves worshiped with their owners, the gallery or some other section of the building being set apart for them. If a special "meeting house" was provided, the colored congregation was treated as an appendage to the white, being served once a month, usually on the Sabbath afternoon, or if in cities, every Sabbath afternoon; separate official meetings were held, also, and separate financial and statistical reports were made at the annual conferences.

Under the new order this method of ministering to the growing needs of the colored members grew very unsatisfactory to them and they sent a special commission to meet with the mother church in General Conference assembled in New Orleans in 1866, this commission to represent their expressed needs and desires for

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

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

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	2,518	2,346	2,341	\$9,211,437	591	\$960,124	530	\$984,660	109	\$93,929
New York	3	3	3	82,000	2	16,500		(1)		(1)
New Jersey	8	4	4	14,700	4	7,175				
Pennsylvania	15	8	8	207,275	5	25,605	4	31,000	2	5,600
Ohio	26	19	18	415,500	15	77,122	5	37,000	3	7,700
Indiana	11	7	7	149,100	6	45,112				
Illinois	26	22	22	520,000	17	123,782	11	32,300	1	1,000
Michigan	9	8	8	115,600	8	31,600	3	19,000	2	4,500
Missouri	33	24	24	296,000	9	66,561	16	42,050	7	10,402
Kansas	15	15	15	74,100	6	7,340	10	16,000		
Maryland	5	5	5	20,000	2	607				
District of Columbia	4	4	4	230,000	1	13,500		(1)		
Virginia	32	31	31	283,400	8	32,255	8	41,500	4	5,985
West Virginia	5	3	3	9,250	2	2,270				
North Carolina	37	34	34	218,660	13	29,360	14	40,850	9	13,747
South Carolina	78	79	78	289,740	21	12,190	17	26,850	4	1,605
Georgia	366	360	360	1,057,191	78	40,555	54	74,010	8	3,280
Florida	68	60	60	437,873	28	39,833	20	43,800	7	2,968
Kentucky	97	92	92	459,450	20	30,160	42	79,600	9	5,636
Tennessee	211	206	206	872,980	28	38,435	33	75,800	5	2,370
Alabama	300	282	282	841,550	54	73,565	67	101,775	8	1,267
Mississippi	370	346	346	642,347	57	17,531	39	44,400	3	1,250
Arkansas	220	188	188	453,891	55	46,061	46	55,800	10	2,495
Louisiana	154	150	150	316,475	29	24,853	32	34,375	4	480
Oklahoma	85	77	77	149,825	26	16,996	18	15,300	1	500
Texas	312	289	288	751,770	81	69,305	76	118,400	16	6,254
New Mexico	3	3	3	9,600	2	750		(1)		(1)
Arizona	5	5	5	8,300	2	551		(1)		(1)
California	12	14	12	178,860	7	38,800	6	16,350	1	3,000
Other States ²	8	8	8	106,000	5	31,750	9	38,500	5	13,890

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

² The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 6 churches in New York, District of Columbia, New Mexico, and Arizona.

separation and organization into a distinct colored church of their own. A committee was appointed to consider the religious interests of the colored people and submitted two reports, one of which was as follows:

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following in reference to the education of the colored people:

Whereas the condition of the colored people of the South is now essentially changed; and

Whereas the interests of the white and colored people are materially dependent upon the intelligence and virtue of this race, that we have had and must continue to have among us; and

Whereas the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has always claimed to be the friend of that people, a claim vindicated by the conscious and successful exertions made in their behalf, in instructing and evangelizing them; and it is important that we continue to evince our interest for them in this regard; and as our hearts prompt us to this philanthropy: Therefore

Resolved, That we recommend to our people the establishment of day schools, under proper regulations and trustworthy teachers, for the education of colored children.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
COLORED METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	2,518	2,477	\$2,428,234	\$1,934,540	\$417,038	\$76,656	2,351	15,666	103,523
New York.....	3	3	24,100	4,000	100	20,000	3	31	285
New Jersey.....	8	8	8,460	7,600	860	-----	7	31	171
Pennsylvania.....	15	15	38,409	30,881	7,528	-----	13	96	630
Ohio.....	26	25	85,108	59,519	24,689	900	26	213	1,470
Indiana.....	11	11	17,154	15,070	2,084	-----	9	50	323
Illinois.....	26	25	73,022	61,076	9,946	2,000	26	218	2,010
Michigan.....	9	9	35,609	29,012	6,597	-----	9	64	562
Missouri.....	33	33	80,203	68,588	9,933	1,682	29	237	1,921
Kansas.....	15	15	26,672	23,124	3,548	-----	15	95	573
Maryland.....	5	4	6,726	5,284	1,442	-----	5	21	147
District of Columbia.....	4	4	13,725	12,353	1,372	-----	4	46	475
Virginia.....	32	32	35,580	31,635	3,945	-----	31	209	1,299
West Virginia.....	5	5	2,468	2,318	150	-----	4	20	79
North Carolina.....	37	36	55,859	43,975	11,784	100	35	263	2,416
South Carolina.....	78	78	46,410	40,049	6,361	-----	70	386	2,759
Georgia.....	366	362	294,022	220,380	49,285	24,357	349	2,204	16,177
Florida.....	68	62	111,589	91,911	19,278	400	57	421	3,088
Kentucky.....	97	97	118,942	101,068	17,874	-----	86	540	3,675
Tennessee.....	211	206	248,010	194,691	49,479	3,840	199	1,483	10,094
Alabama.....	300	298	229,972	176,995	39,593	13,384	294	1,746	11,697
Mississippi.....	370	364	239,657	194,348	45,309	-----	347	2,495	15,030
Arkansas.....	220	219	139,285	110,934	23,376	4,975	203	1,282	7,121
Louisiana.....	154	153	92,090	70,085	22,005	-----	146	940	6,054
Oklahoma.....	85	85	51,090	43,125	6,850	1,315	75	486	2,427
Texas.....	312	301	298,582	248,229	46,650	3,703	283	1,922	11,818
Arizona.....	5	5	6,041	5,540	501	-----	5	25	198
California.....	12	12	29,032	25,347	3,685	-----	11	72	694
Other States.....	11	10	20,417	17,403	3,014	-----	10	70	330

The other report presented the following answers to the question, "What shall be done to promote the religious interest of colored people?"

1. Let our colored members be organized as separate pastoral charges, wherever they prefer it, and their numbers justify it.

2. Let each pastoral charge of colored members have its own quarterly conference composed of official members, as provided for in the discipline.

3. Let colored persons be licensed to preach, and ordained deacons and elders, according to the discipline, when in the judgment of the conference having jurisdiction in the case, they are deemed suitable persons for said office and order in the ministry.

4. The bishop may form a district of colored charges and appoint to it a colored presiding elder, when in his judgment the religious interests of the colored people require it.

5. When it is judged advisable by the college of bishops, annual conferences of colored preachers may be organized, to be presided over by our bishops.

6. When two or more annual conferences shall be formed, let our bishops advise and assist them in organizing a separate General Conference jurisdiction for themselves, if they so desire, and the bishops deem it expedient, in accordance with the doctrine and discipline of our church, and bearing the same relation to the General Conference as the annual conferences bear to each other.

7. Let special attention be given to Sunday schools among the people.

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

CONFERENCE	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total.....	2,518	202,713	2,341	\$9,211,437	591	\$960,124	2,477	\$2,428,234	2,351	108,522
Alabama.....	103	7,815	100	242,775	14	10,538	102	70,018	101	3,548
Arkansas.....	82	3,439	63	124,015	20	9,255	82	48,269	76	2,184
California.....	21	1,797	21	216,760	11	40,101	20	38,798	19	1,027
Central Alabama.....	82	5,202	79	223,625	18	30,860	82	53,187	82	3,368
Central Georgia.....	118	7,441	116	201,731	19	7,041	116	48,656	109	4,070
Central Texas.....	86	5,949	82	148,900	18	8,397	82	68,584	81	3,453
East Florida.....	54	4,465	48	272,548	25	39,318	49	97,543	46	2,782
East Mississippi.....	110	6,823	108	211,650	23	10,285	109	61,781	102	3,505
East Texas.....	100	8,027	94	167,670	19	7,602	98	74,811	93	4,156
Florida.....	15	721	13	166,225	3	515	14	14,121	12	321
Georgia.....	68	8,285	66	379,775	14	18,525	68	86,531	66	3,578
Jackson-Memphis.....	101	13,988	100	516,000	10	17,833	100	118,119	92	5,372
Kansas and Missouri.....	23	3,194	32	252,100	13	54,431	33	82,317	33	1,788
Kentucky and Ohio.....	83	8,615	70	829,350	32	139,827	82	164,117	74	3,577
Little Rock.....	51	3,107	47	193,876	19	32,625	50	38,963	45	1,965
Louisiana.....	115	9,573	112	255,525	19	20,933	115	73,102	108	4,826
Mississippi.....	93	6,705	83	151,500	11	1,770	91	58,641	88	3,522
Muskogee.....	46	2,206	40	82,775	13	5,070	46	31,767	39	1,488
New Orleans.....	39	1,801	38	60,960	10	3,920	38	18,988	38	1,228
North Alabama.....	115	7,966	103	375,150	22	32,167	114	106,767	111	4,791
North Carolina.....	42	5,092	39	235,160	13	29,360	41	59,005	40	2,566
North Mississippi.....	100	8,282	98	179,650	17	3,865	97	81,617	96	6,064
Oklahoma.....	39	1,626	37	67,050	13	5,926	39	19,323	36	930
South Carolina.....	73	4,553	73	273,240	21	12,190	73	43,264	65	2,582
Southeast Missouri and Illinois.....	67	12,987	47	889,675	35	261,677	66	165,245	62	3,836
South Georgia.....	92	7,520	92	218,100	21	7,324	90	76,218	89	4,279
South Mississippi.....	67	3,869	62	99,847	6	2,090	67	37,618	61	1,949
Southwest Arkansas.....	89	4,507	80	139,500	16	4,181	89	54,793	84	3,099
Southwest Georgia.....	87	7,971	85	265,685	24	7,665	87	82,543	84	4,280
Tennessee.....	30	2,992	30	150,060	5	3,314	27	36,045	28	1,385
Texas.....	66	4,124	56	140,650	22	11,310	63	48,775	54	2,068
Washington - Philadelphia.....	62	6,086	55	815,580	21	102,837	61	116,164	58	2,799
West Kentucky.....	51	3,394	47	194,700	9	12,567	51	57,087	47	1,891
West Tennessee.....	80	8,218	76	206,900	13	17,288	79	93,846	79	3,337
West Texas.....	58	4,441	54	272,050	22	41,966	56	101,612	53	2,097

These recommendations were adopted, and at the next General Conference, held at Memphis, Tenn., in May, 1870, it was found that in accordance with this plan five annual conferences had been organized among the colored members, and that it was their unanimous desire to be set aside as a distinct ecclesiastical body. This was approved by the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the members of the General Conference then in session. Steps were immediately taken for the organization of a general conference of the colored members. This new denomination was perfected at Jackson, Tenn., December 16, 1870, taking the name of Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. Two bishops were elected, W. H. Miles, of Louisville, Ky., and R. H. Vanderhost, of Charleston, S. C., who took charge with full authority. Beginning with comparatively few preachers or leaders trained in administrative affairs connected with the intricacies of church work, with but little church property and no schools, it entered upon its new and untried experience with energy and zeal, and gratifying indeed has been its growth and development.

DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

In doctrine the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church is in complete harmony with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Its polity is also essentially the same, with only such variations as its conditions require. The annual conference includes four lay delegates from each presiding elder's district. The General Conference is composed of the bishops, and of delegates elected from the annual conferences, both ministers and laymen in equal numbers. The bishops preside, but have no vote in the General Conference. The itinerant system is still in full force but the time limit for pastors to remain in one church has been removed entirely; presiding elders may remain in their districts for six years and bishops in their episcopal districts for four years. Admission to church membership is regulated largely by the pastor. The probation system is retained, but without time limit, the pastor deciding when a candidate is qualified for full membership.

For financing the general connectional work of the church a budget assessment of \$200,000 is levied on the entire church which amount is divided among the annual conferences according to membership. The money thus collected is apportioned to education, missions, bishops' salary, connectional building fund, church extension, conference claimants, and annual conference contingent fund. In the last 10 years the church has raised, in addition to the budget, over \$100,000 for education and missions.

WORK

Until recent years the general activities of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church were confined chiefly to developing home missions and establishing institutions of learning. The home missionary work is carried on under direction of the general missionary secretary and a board of managers. It helps to build churches and supports mission fields, paying a large part of the salaries of mission preachers. The Church Extension Department devotes its entire energies and means to the building of churches and paying church debts throughout the denomination. Foreign mission work gets its support from special missionary collections from the church at large.

The church has given special attention to developing its educational work, under the management of a standing board of education and secretary. It now has 6 colleges and 4 high schools with a total value of \$1,400,000, and a student body of 2,275 with a steady annual increase.

For the young people the church has Epworth League societies. This work is carried on by a general secretary and board of managers and the latest report shows 901 chapters with a membership of 61,311.

The church has a publishing house located at Jackson, Tenn., which, under the supervision of a practical printer and general manager, publishes the papers of the church and all its current literature, including the Sunday school requisites.

There are in this denomination 11 general officers, including 3 editors of the church papers, and 10 bishops—1 retired and 9 active. The 9 active bishops preside over the 39 annual conferences which are divided into 9 episcopal districts.