

NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH

STATISTICS

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

In the New Apostolic Church all persons, including children, who have been baptized and received into the local church by the bishop are counted as members.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	25	23	2		
Members.....	2,938	2,888	50	98.3	1.7
Average per church.....	118	126	25		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	1,413	1,391	22	98.4	1.6
Female.....	1,525	1,497	28	98.2	1.8
Males per 100 females.....	92.7	92.9	(³)		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	673	656	17	97.5	2.5
13 years and over.....	2,265	2,232	33	98.5	1.5
Per cent under 13 years ⁴	22.9	22.7			
Church edifices:					
Number.....	10	10			
Value—Churches reporting.....	10	10			
Amount reported.....	\$133,000	\$133,000		100.0	
Average per church.....	\$13,300	\$13,300			
Debt—Churches reporting.....	6	6			
Amount reported.....	\$38,000	\$38,000		100.0	
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	3	3			
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	18	18			
Amount reported.....	\$26,972	\$26,972		100.0	
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$16,429	\$16,429		100.0	
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$10,543	\$10,543		100.0	
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,498	\$1,498			
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	18	18			
Officers and teachers.....	41	41			
Scholars.....	479	479		100.0	

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

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Ratio not shown, the number of females being less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 25 active organizations of the New Apostolic Church, with 2,938 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by all of the 25 churches, including 24 which reported members under 13 years of age. No parsonages were reported.

Comparative data, 1906–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, and 1906.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906
Churches (local organizations)	25	20	13
Increase over preceding census:			
Number.....	5	7	
Per cent ¹			
Members	2,938	3,828	2,020
Increase ² over preceding census:			
Number.....	-890	1,808	
Per cent.....	-23.2	89.5	
Average membership per church.....	118	191	155
Church edifices:			
Number.....	10	6	2
Value—Churches reporting.....	10	6	2
Amount reported.....	\$133,000	\$69,710	\$8,500
Average per church.....	\$13,300	\$11,618	\$4,250
Debt—Churches reporting.....	6	4	2
Amount reported.....	\$38,000	\$47,040	\$6,000
Expenditures during year:			
Churches reporting.....	18	13	
Amount reported.....	\$26,972	\$8,210	
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$16,429	\$7,978	
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$10,543	\$234	
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,498	\$632	
Sunday schools:			
Churches reporting.....	18	12	3
Officers and teachers.....	41	32	10
Scholars.....	479	689	250

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

² A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the New Apostolic 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.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION ¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The New Apostolic Church claims the same historical origin as the Catholic Apostolic Church.² A bishop of that church named Schwarz, who presided over a congregation in Hamburg, Germany, after the death of a number of the apostles, consulted the remaining ones, claiming that the spirit of the apostles had often inspired new selections for that office. This consultation resulted in his excommunication, but a priest named Preuss, serving under Bishop Schwarz, was selected for the apostleship "through the spirit of prophecy" in the year 1862,

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 Rev. Huzo O. Moor, Chicago, Ill., elder of the New Apostolic Church, and approved by him in its present form.

² See Catholic Apostolic Church, p. 300.

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

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Ur- ban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females (¹)
United States.....	25	23	2	2,938	2,888	50	1,413	1,525	92.7
Middle Atlantic:									
New York.....	6	5	1	774	751	23	358	416	86.1
New Jersey.....	3	3		350	350		167	183	91.3
Pennsylvania.....	2	2		153	153		77	76	
East North Central:									
Ohio.....	2	2		84	84		38	46	
Indiana.....	1	1		120	120		54	66	
Illinois.....	4	4		725	725		344	381	90.3
Michigan.....	2	2		495	495		255	240	106.3
Wisconsin.....	3	3		120	120		60	60	
West North Central:									
Missouri.....	1	1		90	90		47	43	
South Dakota.....	1		1	27		27	13	14	

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

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: NEW APOSTOLIC 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	Percent under 13
United States.....	25	20	13	2,938	3,828	2,020	673	2,265	22.9
New York.....	6	4	3	774	1,897	1,150	151	623	19.5
New Jersey.....	3	2	2	350	409	80	72	278	20.6
Illinois.....	4	4	1	725	710	400	156	569	21.5
Wisconsin.....	3	2	1	120	135	40	30	90	25.0
Other States.....	9	8	6	969	677	350	264	705	27.2

and with his apostleship commenced the New Apostolic Church. For a time Bishop Schwarz served under the new apostle, but was himself later selected as an apostle.

The movement spread throughout the world and other apostles were appointed. One of these apostles, the Rev. John Erb, is the head of the churches in the United States, although he acts under the head apostle in Europe, the Rev. Herman Niehaus, who resides in Steinhagen, near Bielefeld, Westphalia, Germany, and who has under his general supervision all New Apostolic churches throughout the entire world.

DOCTRINE

The New Apostolic Church accepts the Apostles' Creed, and emphasizes the inspiration and authority of the Bible, the sacramental nature of baptism and the Lord's Supper, the restoration of the ordinance of the laying on of hands by the apostles, the necessity of the gifts of the Spirit, the payment of the tithe, and the belief in the speedy, personal, premillennial coming of Christ.

**TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

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

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	25	10	10	\$123,000	6	\$32,000
Illinois.....	4	4	4	67,000	1	20,000
Other States.....	21	6	6	66,000	5	12,000

**TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
NEW APOSTOLIC 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.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States....	25	18	\$26,972	\$16,429	\$10,543	18	41	479
New York.....	6	5	7,520	3,550	3,970	5	11	121
Illinois.....	4	4	8,919	7,793	1,126	3	11	138
Other States.....	15	9	10,533	5,086	5,447	10	19	220

ORGANIZATION

The New Apostolic Church is a part of one coherent body in the United States and abroad. In its organization in this country the church is divided into apostolic circuits, at the head of which are the apostles, who appoint their religious assistants; apostolic circuits are subdivided into bishops' circuits, each led by a bishop, who, while directly responsible to the apostle, exercises immediate supervision of the group of local congregations; elders' circuits, consisting of smaller numbers of congregations, are led by elders, under the supervision of the bishop or the apostle. Each church has, according to its size, one or more priests and other assistants, as evangelists, deacons, etc., who minister according to the gifts bestowed upon them and according to the character of their office, usually without remuneration. All the ministers are selected by the apostleship according to their ability, knowledge, and inspiration of God. Candidates for admission to the church are required to make application to the bishop or apostle. Means for meeting the church expenditures are obtained by voluntary contributions.

WORK

In recent years the church has organized along broader missionary lines and conducts missionary work in Canada and in several countries of South America. The amount definitely contributed for this work in 1926 was not reported.