

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH)

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Christian Church (General Convention of the Christian 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 the Christian Church (General Convention) consists of those persons who have been received into fellowship in the local churches upon their voluntary pledge to live a Christian life.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH)

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations) -----	1,044	135	909	12.9	87.1
Members -----	112,795	28,079	84,716	24.9	75.1
Average per church-----	108	208	93		
Membership by sex:					
Male-----	45,157	10,539	34,618	23.3	76.7
Female-----	62,111	15,602	46,509	25.1	74.9
Sex not reported-----	5,527	1,938	3,589	35.1	64.9
Males per 100 females-----	72.7	67.5	74.4		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years-----	7,411	2,450	4,961	33.1	66.9
13 years and over-----	93,500	22,725	70,775	24.3	75.7
Age not reported-----	11,884	2,904	8,980	24.4	75.6
Per cent under 13 years ³ -----	7.3	9.7	6.6		
Church edifices:					
Number-----	988	123	865	12.4	87.6
Value—Churches reporting-----	976	120	856	12.3	87.7
Amount reported-----	\$7,202,193	\$3,457,771	\$3,744,422	48.0	52.0
Average per church-----	\$7,379	\$28,815	\$4,374		
Debt—Churches reporting -----	103	38	65	36.9	63.1
Amount reported-----	\$581,027	\$462,480	\$118,547	79.6	20.4
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice-----	697	62	635	8.9	91.1
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting-----	229	55	174	24.0	76.0
Amount reported-----	\$927,133	\$383,650	\$543,483	41.4	58.6
Debt—Churches reporting -----	43	22	21		
Amount reported-----	\$112,685	\$69,220	\$43,465	61.4	38.6
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage-----	151	27	124	17.9	82.1
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting-----	1,004	135	869	13.4	86.6
Amount reported-----	\$1,353,379	\$572,583	\$780,796	42.3	57.7
Current expenses and improvements-----	\$1,149,610	\$489,184	\$660,426	42.6	57.4
Benevolences, missions, etc.-----	\$199,990	\$82,965	\$117,025	41.5	58.5
Not classified-----	\$3,779	\$434	\$3,345	11.5	88.5
Average expenditure per church-----	\$1,348	\$4,241	\$898		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting-----	938	131	807	14.0	86.0
Officers and teachers-----	10,011	2,128	7,883	21.3	78.7
Scholars-----	85,478	23,298	62,180	27.3	72.7

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 Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 1,044 active Christian churches, with 112,795 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 1,003 churches and the classification by age was reported by 926 churches, including, however, only 539 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: CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH)

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890 ¹
Churches (local organizations)	1,044	1,263	1,354	1,424
Increase² over preceding census:				
Number.....	-219	-91	-70	-----
Per cent.....	-17.3	-6.7	-4.9	-----
Members	112,795	118,737	110,117	103,722
Increase² over preceding census:				
Number.....	-5,942	8,620	6,395	-----
Per cent.....	-5.0	7.8	6.2	-----
Average membership per church.....	108	94	81	73
Church edifices:				
Number.....	988	1,171	1,253	1,098
Value—Churches reporting.....	976	1,162	1,239	-----
Amount reported.....	\$7,202,193	\$3,569,471	\$2,740,322	\$1,775,202
Average per church.....	\$7,379	\$3,072	\$2,212	-----
Debt—Churches reporting.....	103	107	97	-----
Amount reported.....	\$581,027	\$147,494	\$101,561	-----
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	229	183	160	-----
Amount reported.....	\$927,133	\$379,750	\$256,350	-----
Debt—Churches reporting.....	43	-----	-----	-----
Amount reported.....	\$112,685	-----	-----	-----
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	1,004	1,103	-----	-----
Amount reported.....	\$1,353,379	\$644,044	-----	-----
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,149,610	\$538,444	-----	-----
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$199,990	\$101,510	-----	-----
Not classified.....	\$3,779	\$4,090	-----	-----
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,348	\$584	-----	-----
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	938	1,110	1,136	-----
Officers and teachers.....	10,011	11,093	10,510	-----
Scholars.....	85,478	91,853	72,963	-----

¹ Figures for 1890 include the Christian Church, South, reported separately in that year.

² A minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Christian Church (General Convention) 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 Christian 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: CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN 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.....	1,044	135	909	112,795	28,079	84,716	45,157	62,111	5,527	72.7
New England:										
Maine.....	17	2	15	1,282	233	1,049	478	804	-----	59.5
New Hampshire.....	16	5	11	1,357	829	528	502	855	-----	58.7
Vermont.....	2	-----	2	216	-----	216	91	125	-----	72.8
Massachusetts.....	21	17	4	2,456	2,203	253	799	1,422	235	56.2
Rhode Island.....	6	5	1	957	942	15	333	624	-----	53.4
Connecticut.....	1	1	-----	62	62	-----	41	21	-----	-----
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	62	12	50	4,577	1,120	3,457	1,770	2,673	134	66.2
New Jersey.....	15	4	11	1,945	774	1,171	765	1,180	-----	64.8
Pennsylvania.....	49	1	48	3,623	93	3,530	1,396	2,095	132	66.6
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	182	20	162	24,165	6,867	17,298	10,103	13,326	736	75.8
Indiana.....	174	17	157	17,658	2,260	15,398	6,895	9,224	1,539	74.8
Illinois.....	88	4	84	6,767	766	6,001	2,681	3,737	349	71.7
Michigan.....	9	-----	9	628	-----	628	275	353	-----	77.9
Wisconsin.....	9	-----	9	156	-----	156	47	109	-----	43.1
West North Central:										
Iowa.....	20	-----	20	2,690	-----	2,690	1,007	1,432	251	70.3
Missouri.....	22	-----	22	1,485	-----	1,485	679	806	-----	84.2
Nebraska.....	2	-----	2	297	-----	297	124	173	-----	71.7
Kansas.....	14	-----	14	1,257	-----	1,257	542	715	-----	75.8
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	3	2	1	660	639	21	301	359	-----	83.8
Maryland.....	7	5	2	852	802	50	311	541	-----	57.5
Virginia.....	74	13	61	13,971	5,430	8,541	5,286	6,897	1,788	76.6
West Virginia.....	19	-----	19	778	-----	778	303	436	39	69.5
North Carolina.....	161	16	145	19,950	3,585	16,365	8,387	11,333	230	74.0
Georgia.....	15	5	10	1,362	850	512	587	775	-----	75.7
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	26	2	24	1,159	86	1,073	463	602	94	76.9
Alabama.....	27	4	23	2,347	538	1,809	937	1,410	-----	66.5
West South Central:										
Texas.....	1	-----	1	69	-----	69	25	44	-----	-----
Pacific:										
Washington.....	2	-----	2	69	-----	69	29	40	-----	-----

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

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The period following the War of the Revolution was characterized by a general spiritual declension. This again was succeeded by a revival period during which, especially in what were then the western and southern sections, denominational lines were frequently ignored, and members of different churches united both in evangelistic and sacramental services. In some cases there were efforts to enforce ecclesiastical discipline, which resulted in revolt, while in others entirely independent movements were started, not so much antagonistic to, as independent of, ecclesiastical organization.

The pioneer in this movement was the Rev. James O'Kelley, a Methodist minister in Virginia. He opposed very earnestly the development of the superintendency into an episcopacy, especially so far as it gave the bishops absolute power in the matter of appointments to charges. He presented his cause in the general conference and elsewhere, but failed to bring about the change he desired, and in 1792, with a number of others, withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal

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 Dr. F. G. Coffin, president, the General Convention of the Christian 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: CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN 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	1, 644	1, 263	1, 354	112, 795	118, 737	110, 117	7, 411	93, 500	11, 884	7. 3
Maine.....	17	24	33	1, 282	1, 561	2, 210	5	1, 047	230	0. 5
New Hampshire.....	16	19	19	1, 357	1, 111	1, 303	84	1, 273	.....	6. 2
Vermont.....	2	2	5	216	301	286	.....	53	163	.....
Massachusetts.....	21	24	27	2, 456	1, 846	2, 114	50	2, 231	175	2. 2
Rhode Island.....	6	7	7	957	951	769	28	929	.....	2. 9
New York.....	62	77	86	4, 577	4, 818	5, 492	102	3, 827	558	4. 8
New Jersey.....	15	12	13	1, 045	1, 678	1, 406	55	1, 525	365	3. 5
Pennsylvania.....	49	53	63	3, 623	4, 517	4, 019	156	3, 168	299	4. 7
Ohio.....	182	224	247	24, 165	26, 123	24, 706	2, 299	20, 086	1, 780	10. 3
Indiana.....	174	197	224	17, 658	20, 253	21, 397	1, 171	14, 500	1, 967	7. 5
Illinois.....	88	106	112	6, 767	8, 391	8, 654	366	6, 007	394	5. 7
Michigan.....	9	16	16	628	1, 023	1, 018	42	548	38	7. 1
Wisconsin.....	9	8	21	156	585	470	4	162	.....	2. 6
Iowa.....	20	33	40	2, 690	3, 501	3, 568	176	2, 092	422	7. 8
Missouri.....	22	27	27	1, 485	2, 157	1, 177	33	1, 452	.....	2. 2
North Dakota.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	137	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kansas.....	14	17	26	1, 257	1, 033	1, 034	80	1, 177	.....	6. 4
Delaware.....	3	1	.....	660	17	.....	25	635	.....	3. 8
Maryland.....	7	1	1	852	32	51	46	766	40	5. 7
Virginia.....	74	106	74	13, 971	13, 558	8, 296	1, 021	10, 142	2, 808	9. 1
West Virginia.....	19	23	21	778	650	708	34	739	5	4. 4
North Carolina.....	161	184	190	19, 950	18, 299	15, 909	1, 228	16, 827	1, 895	6. 8
Georgia.....	15	12	9	1, 362	902	657	81	1, 000	281	7. 5
Kentucky.....	26	52	46	1, 159	2, 424	2, 310	6	924	229	0. 6
Alabama.....	27	26	25	2, 347	2, 140	1, 890	198	1, 934	215	9. 3
Arkansas.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	157	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wyoming.....	.....	3	.....	.....	244	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Washington.....	2	3	5	69	138	103	2	67	.....	.....
Other States.....	4	6	7	428	484	326	29	399	.....	6. 8

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

Church. A little later they organized under the name of "Republican Methodists," but in 1794 resolved to be known as "Christians" only, taking the Bible as their guide and discipline, and accepting no test of church fellowship other than Christian character.

A little later a similar movement arose among the Baptists of New England. Dr. Abner Jones, of Vermont, became convinced that "sectarian names and human creeds should be abandoned, and that true piety alone, and not the externals of it, should be made the test of Christian fellowship and communion." On this basis he organized a church at Lyndon, Vt., in 1800. He was soon joined by Elias Smith, a Baptist minister of Portsmouth, N. H., and by many others.

In 1800 the "Great Revival," as it came to be known, was started in the Cumberland Valley of Tennessee and Kentucky.² It was confined to no denomination and in the preaching no attention was given to the doctrines which had divided the churches. In the Presbyterian Church, especially, this seeming neglect of fundamental doctrines was viewed with concern, and resulted in charges being preferred against two ministers, Richard McNemar and John Thompson, for preaching doctrines contrary to the confession of faith. As a consequence, these men, with a number of others, among whom were John Dunlavy, Robert Marshall, and Barton W. Stone, withdrew from the Synod of Kentucky and, in 1803,

² See Cumberland Presbyterian Church, p. 1142.

**TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN 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.....	1,044	988	976	\$7,202,193	103	\$581,027	229	\$927,133	43	\$112,685
Maine.....	17	17	17	144,500	2	6,152	9	30,500	—	—
New Hampshire.....	16	16	16	154,500	2	7,000	10	30,200	3	5,500
Massachusetts.....	21	21	21	329,500	1	4,000	10	53,500	3	4,806
Rhode Island.....	6	5	5	141,200	—	—	3	24,000	1	4,400
New York.....	62	59	56	465,050	5	20,950	39	100,400	1	1,200
New Jersey.....	15	15	13	225,000	3	3,898	9	61,000	2	10,000
Pennsylvania.....	49	47	47	142,358	3	2,943	11	26,233	1	2,200
Ohio.....	182	180	176	1,433,450	18	121,017	38	165,850	5	10,600
Indiana.....	174	173	171	982,085	17	34,883	28	109,800	8	17,825
Illinois.....	88	86	86	346,800	5	5,650	15	48,700	3	5,200
Michigan.....	9	9	9	52,854	—	—	3	11,500	—	—
Wisconsin.....	9	8	8	12,800	—	—	(¹)	(¹)	—	(¹)
Iowa.....	20	19	19	82,600	—	—	9	25,100	2	700
Missouri.....	22	19	19	28,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kansas.....	14	12	12	83,700	2	1,600	4	13,300	—	—
Delaware.....	3	3	3	259,500	2	14,675	(¹)	(¹)	—	(¹)
Maryland.....	7	4	4	96,000	1	16,500	(¹)	(¹)	—	(¹)
Virginia.....	74	74	73	1,188,800	15	218,926	19	100,650	8	24,820
West Virginia.....	19	8	8	19,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Carolina.....	161	154	154	829,296	22	120,843	9	63,500	3	13,740
Georgia.....	15	12	12	72,806	1	100	(¹)	(¹)	—	—
Kentucky.....	26	17	17	32,900	1	150	—	—	—	—
Alabama.....	27	25	25	61,000	3	1,740	—	—	—	—
Other States ²	8	5	5	18,500	—	—	13	62,300	3	11,700

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

² The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 7 churches in Wisconsin, Delaware, Maryland, and Georgia.

organized the Springfield Presbytery. Shortly afterwards this body was dissolved, and its members adopted practically the same position as that held by James O'Kelley in the South and by Abner Jones in New England.

General meetings, the first step toward organization, were held in New England as early as 1809, but it was not until 1819 that the first general conference met at Portsmouth, N. H., on the call of Frederick Plummer, of Pennsylvania, and Edward B. Rollings, of New Hampshire. The conference met again at Windham, Conn., in 1820, and regularly until 1832, when it was dissolved; but the following year, by the action of several conferences, a general convention was organized. In 1834, by direction of the convention, the Christian General Book Association was formed, and thereafter met once in four years in connection with the convention, the same persons being delegates to both bodies. This form of organization continued until after 1860, when the two bodies became entirely separated. In 1886 the general convention, then called the "American Christian Convention," and the publication board, then called the "Christian Publishing Association," were again made identical in membership.

In the year 1829 Alexander Campbell and his followers separated from the Baptists of Pennsylvania and Ohio.³ Their teaching spread rapidly to Kentucky, and in 1832 Barton W. Stone, one of the most prominent of the original leaders of the Christians in that section, united with them, on the condition that the Bible alone should be the basis of the union. A large number of the Christians in Kentucky and Ohio followed Mr. Stone in this action, but even in these

³ See Disciples of Christ, p. 472.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN 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...	1,044	1,004	\$1,353,379	\$1,149,610	\$199,990	\$3,779	938	10,011	85,478
Maine.....	17	16	22,704	20,603	2,101	-----	12	147	1,158
New Hampshire.....	16	15	27,029	25,163	1,866	-----	14	139	1,260
Massachusetts.....	21	21	49,410	42,219	7,191	-----	19	259	2,121
Rhode Island.....	6	6	14,675	12,588	2,087	-----	6	82	611
New York.....	62	61	101,049	90,325	10,724	-----	55	537	3,820
New Jersey.....	15	14	62,925	56,706	5,785	434	15	231	2,104
Pennsylvania.....	49	47	33,592	25,921	7,281	300	42	436	2,901
Ohio.....	182	176	235,289	198,061	37,153	75	167	2,133	18,987
Indiana.....	174	167	235,137	205,405	28,915	817	168	1,943	14,621
Illinois.....	88	83	66,318	55,079	10,309	930	81	774	5,750
Michigan.....	9	9	10,531	9,738	793	-----	8	71	699
Wisconsin.....	9	9	2,021	1,792	127	102	7	42	246
Iowa.....	20	19	20,201	18,062	2,139	-----	19	233	1,942
Missouri.....	22	22	3,140	2,851	289	-----	14	93	526
Kansas.....	14	14	70,297	68,316	1,981	-----	14	182	1,655
Maryland.....	7	7	21,241	20,591	650	-----	6	60	478
Virginia.....	74	74	194,270	155,515	38,755	-----	70	808	9,504
West Virginia.....	19	13	1,733	1,179	546	8	11	86	611
North Carolina.....	161	159	131,358	96,727	34,215	416	147	1,213	12,102
Georgia.....	15	15	9,311	7,195	2,116	-----	11	71	740
Kentucky.....	26	20	2,531	1,785	289	457	17	102	724
Alabama.....	27	27	11,457	8,656	2,701	100	24	174	1,849
Other States.....	11	10	27,160	25,133	1,977	50	11	115	1,069

States the greater part remained with the original body, while the eastern and southern churches were not affected. Out of this movement, however, some confusion of names has arisen, since many of the churches of the Disciples are still known as "Christian" churches.

In the report for 1890 the denomination was listed as "Christians (Christian Connection)," and the same name was used in 1906. This did not prove entirely satisfactory, and after some conference the name "Christian Church (American Christian Convention)" the title already officially chosen by the church, was adopted for the 1916 report, as identifying the denomination with its general business organization. This title was in 1922 changed to "Christian Church (General Convention of the Christian Church)."

In 1854, on account of the adoption of resolutions condemning slavery, the southern delegates to the general convention withdrew and formed a separate organization, which continued until 1890, when the delegates from the South resumed their seats in the convention.

DOCTRINE

The principles upon which its first churches were organized continue to characterize the denomination. No general organization has ventured to set forth any "creed" or statement of doctrine other than the Bible itself. Christian character is the only test of church fellowship, and, while their interpretation of the teachings of the Bible is generally in accord with that of most evangelical denominations, they do not bar any follower of Christ from membership because of difference in theological belief. This same liberty extends to the ordinances of the church. Baptism is not made a requisite to membership, although it is often urged upon believers as a duty. While immersion is generally practiced, no one

mode is insisted upon. The churches practice open communion and labor to promote the spirit of unity among all Christians.

ORGANIZATION

The general polity of the denomination is congregational, and each local church is independent in its organization, but at a very early period conferences were organized which admitted ministers to membership, and in which the churches were represented by lay delegates. These conferences at first were advisory only, but have largely developed into administrative bodies. They have the oversight of the ministry, but do not interfere with the discipline of the churches. Ordination of ministers is usually by action of the conference, often upon request of some church. Churches and ministers are expected to report annually to the conference, and to cooperate in carrying out its recommendations. Besides the local conferences, there are a number of State conferences and associations for administrative work and five regional conventions for the entire United States and Canada. Nearly all these bodies are incorporated, and hold property for denominational use, sometimes holding in trust the property of local churches.

The General Convention of the Christian Church meets quadrennially. Its affairs are administered ad interim by "The General Board of the Christian Church" composed of 50 members representing the several departments of the church, with a few members at large. The convention maintains six departments—Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Christian Education, Publications, Evangelism and Life Service, and Ministerial Relief. In addition there are a number of permanent commissions, as Christian Unity, International Relief, etc.; these are primarily agents of the churches for the conduct of their general work. The Convention sessions are occasions for the consideration of topics affecting church life and for ecclesiastical fellowship. The membership includes delegates from the several local conferences, each conference being entitled to one ministerial and one lay delegate for each 700 members of the churches within it; the presidents of the conferences, State associations, district and regional conventions; the presidents of the colleges controlled by the denomination; and the officers chosen at the previous session. It elects a secretary of each department, and these secretaries, with the president and vice president of the convention, constitute an executive board, whose duty it is to carry out the measures adopted by the Convention, and to act as a board of trustees to conduct its corporate interests and manage its property.

WORK

The mission work of the Convention is carried on in two departments, home and foreign, under the direction of a board of 10 members, elected by the Convention, two of the members acting as secretaries of the departments. In the home field, assistance is given to needy churches, and missionaries are employed in the newly settled and in some of the older sections. In 1926, 53 churches and missions in 36 cities and towns were assisted, frontier work was carried on in Washington and Wyoming, and help was given in two eastern conferences, 37 missionaries being employed. The board holds missionary conferences, rallies, and institutes; publishes missionary literature; and in other ways promotes missionary interests throughout the conferences and local churches. The total amount raised for home missions and church extension during the quadrennium 1923-1926 was \$272,270, of which \$68,280 was raised in 1926.

Foreign missionary work is carried on in Japan, with headquarters at Tokyo, and in Porto Rico, with headquarters at Ponce. Less pretentious work is conducted cooperatively in South America and Africa. The churches in Japan are organized in a conference, independent of any control by the denomination in the United States. A corporation effected by the missionaries under the laws

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES, 1926: CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH)

CONVENTION AND 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	1,044	112,795	976	\$7,202,193	103	\$581,027	1,004	\$1,353,379	938	85,478
New England Convention:										
Maine.....	8	713	8	102,500	2	6,152	8	14,342	7	827
Rockingham.....	15	1,144	15	134,000	2	6,000	13	27,601	12	1,156
Merrimack.....	8	961	8	103,000	1	5,000	8	12,950	8	767
York and Cumberland.....	7	362	7	26,000			7	4,566	4	115
Rhode Island and Massachusetts.....	24	3,088	23	415,700			24	56,424	22	2,385
Metropolitan Convention:										
New York Eastern.....	30	2,334	29	245,400	1	1,300	29	40,947	26	1,677
New York Western.....	7	458	7	33,500	1	1,500	7	8,131	6	477
New York Central.....	10	689	10	41,150			10	12,856	10	738
New Jersey.....	23	2,788	23	340,933	5	13,331	22	91,254	23	2,965
Tioga River.....	8	737	8	55,200			8	16,435	8	614
Rays Hill and Southern Pennsylvania.....	29	2,288	28	50,825			28	11,891	26	1,595
Southwestern West Virginia.....	4	109		(1)			4	320	2	80
Western Pennsylvania.....	5	74	4	5,500	1	60	4	705	2	90
West Virginia.....	11	257	4	6,500			6	394	7	378
Central Convention:										
Erie.....	8	907	8	64,400	2	6,700	8	12,837	7	728
Miami, Ohio.....	54	11,843	54	898,600	9	105,088	53	142,425	53	9,912
Mount Vernon.....	13	1,112	13	68,500			13	9,256	11	808
Northwestern Ohio.....	22	3,443	21	142,650	3	5,400	21	33,666	21	3,116
Ohio.....	5	235	3	4,800	1	347	4	890	3	186
Ohio Central.....	18	1,873	18	125,800	2	650	18	21,116	18	1,379
Ohio Eastern.....	23	1,374	22	30,000			21	4,586	20	903
Southern Ohio.....	25	2,299	24	56,800			25	9,057	24	1,275
Kentucky, Dist. No. 1.....	4	101		(1)				(1)	1	50
Kentucky, Dist. No. 2.....	2	93		(1)				(1)	2	118
Kentucky Christian.....	22	1,153	14	37,400	1	4,000	18	2,000	14	556
Central Indiana.....	9	821	9	24,500			9	4,238	9	551
Eastern Indiana.....	64	6,212	64	384,035	6	15,382	61	84,443	61	5,635
Eel River.....	28	3,795	28	225,650	4	8,680	27	77,035	28	3,649
Western Indiana.....	35	3,958	33	192,500	2	4,600	34	33,901	33	2,554
Indiana Miami Reserve.....	20	1,483	19	51,200	3	2,953	19	9,359	20	1,207
Northwestern Indiana.....	23	2,141	23	111,100	3	3,600	23	27,810	22	1,779
Southern Indiana.....	6	574	6	50,800			5	6,541	6	415
Michigan.....	5	312	5	34,854			5	7,228	5	306
Western Michigan and Northern Indiana.....	4	204	4	7,000			4	2,453	3	128
Illinois.....	14	800	13	16,300	1	500	13	5,010	11	438
Central Illinois.....	21	2,189	21	181,300	3	3,650	20	33,134	21	2,120
Northern Illinois.....	3	166	3	8,000			3	2,492	3	191
Southern Illinois.....	10	519	10	16,700			9	2,910	8	335
Southern Wabash, Illinois.....	33	2,709	32	106,800	1	1,500	32	19,334	32	2,326
Richland Union.....	9	156	8	12,800			9	2,021	7	246
Salt Creek.....	6	145	5	5,600			4	465	3	63
Scioto Valley.....	4	129	4	5,000			4	643	3	126
Western Convention:										
Western Illinois.....	7	354	7	17,700			6	3,438	6	340
Central Iowa.....	5	607	5	20,500			5	8,810	5	506
North Missouri.....	6	342	5	8,200			6	933	5	141
Osage (eastern division).....	9	669	8	9,700			9	915	3	120
Western Osage.....	4	274	3	5,600			4	594	3	102
Union Iowa.....	7	616	7	13,400			7	2,721	7	426
Western Iowa.....	11	1,667	10	53,200			10	9,468	10	1,173
Eastern Kansas.....	3	203		(1)			3	976	3	199
Northern Kansas and Nebraska.....	5	734	4	14,700	1	600	5	7,508	5	780
Northwestern Kansas.....	5	278	4	11,000	1	1,000	5	1,779	5	569
Southern Kansas.....	3	339	3	57,500			3	63,469	3	412
Western Washington.....	2	69		(1)				(1)	2	80

Footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES, 1926: CHRISTIAN CHURCH (GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH)—Continued

CONVENTION AND 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
Southern Convention:										
Alabama.....	27	2,030	24	\$43,000	3	\$1,740	27	\$8,724	24	1,631
Georgia and Alabama.....	16	1,748	13	90,800	1	100	16	12,094	12	1,008
Eastern North Carolina.....	46	5,322	44	304,621	5	108,442	44	33,283	41	3,293
North Carolina and Virginia.....	37	6,090	35	232,075	5	9,206	37	48,446	35	4,168
Western North Carolina.....	33	3,660	32	125,000	-----	-----	33	30,718	29	2,947
Eastern Virginia.....	47	11,121	47	1,368,800	17	247,995	46	207,623	44	7,556
Virginia Valley Central.....	24	2,582	22	101,500	-----	-----	24	11,106	20	1,715
Afro Convention:										
Baltimore.....	4	619	-----	(1)	-----	-----	4	7,568	4	308
New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.....	9	392	-----	(1)	-----	(1)	9	9,547	7	358
North Carolina.....	37	4,201	36	85,800	6	2,251	37	18,894	35	1,787
North Carolina (southern division).....	18	2,100	17	120,800	7	3,050	18	9,730	18	895
Combinations ¹	-----	-----	12	95,000	3	10,250	6	1,369	-----	-----

¹ Amount included in the figures shown on the line designated "Combinations," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

² The figures for value, debt, and expenditures represent data for churches in Southwestern West Virginia, Kentucky Districts No. 1 and No. 2, Eastern Kansas, Western Washington, Baltimore, and New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania Conferences.

of Japan holds, for the mission board, the greater part of the property, which is valued at \$178,000. The reports for 1926 show, for both fields, 16 stations, occupied by 14 missionaries, with the assistance of 27 native helpers; and 23 churches, with 2,390 members. There are also in Porto Rico eight Sunday schools, with 1,129 members. The entire property in both missions is valued at \$238,000, and \$278,085 was contributed for the conduct of the work during the past quadrennium.

There are two women's boards, one for home and the other for foreign missions, which cooperate with the mission board in raising funds.

The receipts of the mission board have advanced steadily from \$84,228, 1902-1906, and \$144,216, 1913-1916, to \$550,355 in the period 1922-1926.

Under the control of the denomination, or affiliated with it, are seven institutes and colleges, two (one Negro) in North Carolina, and one each in Ohio, New York, Indiana, Missouri, and Wyoming. Reports for 1926 show 2,038 students in these institutions; \$115,100 contributed by churches and individuals toward their support; property valued at \$2,190,063; and a total endowment of \$1,211,873.

A home for aged Christian ministers is maintained at Lakemont, N. Y., and an orphanage at Elon College, N. C. The property of these institutions is valued at \$129,000 and their endowment at \$34,000. In 1926 there were 371 young people's societies, with 12,176 members.

"The Herald of Gospel Liberty," the denominational organ, was founded by Elias Smith, at Portsmouth, N. H., in 1808, and is the oldest religious newspaper in the United States published in the English language. It is now published at Dayton, Ohio, by the Christian Publishing Association, which also issues the Sunday school literature. The association furnishes offices for the denominational societies in its buildings at Dayton, and the "Christian Missionary," the organ of the mission board, is also issued there. The value of the plant is estimated at \$248,000.