

# FEDERATED CHURCHES

## STATISTICS

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

The membership requirements for the Federated Churches are those of its constituent denominations. Provision is sometimes made for a "federated" or "independent" membership, composed of persons who do not desire to affiliate with any of these denominations.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PERCENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	361	60	301	16.6	83.4
<b>Members</b> .....	59,977	16,336	43,641	27.2	72.8
Average per church.....	166	272	145		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	21,127	5,589	15,588	26.2	73.8
Female.....	35,571	9,078	26,493	25.5	74.5
Sex not reported.....	3,279	1,719	1,560	52.4	47.6
Males per 100 females.....	59.4	61.0	58.8		
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....	2,101	448	1,653	21.3	78.7
13 years and over.....	51,511	11,951	39,560	23.2	76.8
Age not reported.....	6,365	3,937	2,428	61.9	38.1
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	3.9	3.6	4.0		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	552	80	472	14.5	85.5
Value—Churches reporting.....	343	56	287	16.3	83.7
Amount reported.....	\$6,159,725	\$2,526,800	\$3,632,925	41.0	59.0
Average per church.....	\$17,958	\$45,121	\$12,658		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	62	23	39		
Amount reported.....	\$235,530	\$151,420	\$84,110	64.3	35.7
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	243	27	216	11.1	88.9
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
Value—Churches reporting.....	285	42	243	14.7	85.3
Amount reported.....	\$1,147,950	\$353,800	\$794,150	30.8	69.2
Debt—Churches reporting.....	33	12	21		
Amount reported.....	\$53,805	\$33,300	\$20,505	61.9	38.1
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	220	26	194	11.8	88.2
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	354	58	296	16.4	83.6
Amount reported.....	\$1,272,455	\$429,323	\$843,132	33.7	66.3
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,082,730	\$361,729	\$721,001	33.4	66.6
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$189,725	\$67,594	\$122,131	35.6	64.4
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,595	\$7,402	\$2,848		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	347	59	288	17.0	83.0
Officers and teachers.....	5,352	1,332	4,020	24.9	75.1
Scholars.....	46,820	11,917	34,903	25.5	74.5

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

<sup>2</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

<sup>3</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 361 active Federated Churches, with 59,977 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 346 churches and the classification by age was reported by 334 churches, including, however, only 160 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

Federated Churches reported at previous censuses of religious bodies have been included under the head of Independent Churches, and there are no comparable census data.

**State tables.**—Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Federated Churches by States. Table 2 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 3 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches, together with the membership classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 4 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property. Table 5 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 4 and 5 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 2.

**TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: FEDERATED CHURCHES**

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Ur- ban	Ru- ral	Total	Ur- ban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females ( <sup>1</sup> )
United States.....	361	60	301	59,977	16,336	43,641	21,127	35,571	3,279	59.4
New England:										
Maine.....	20	3	17	2,118	498	1,620	573	1,307	238	43.8
New Hampshire.....	15	1	14	1,288	152	1,136	410	878		46.7
Vermont.....	40	1	39	5,093	547	4,546	1,571	3,305	217	47.5
Massachusetts.....	36	12	24	6,059	2,741	3,318	1,907	3,445	707	55.4
Rhode Island.....	1		1	78		78	29	49		
Connecticut.....	13	1	12	1,415	81	1,334	515	900		57.2
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	31	3	28	4,783	678	4,105	1,706	2,918	159	58.5
New Jersey.....	2	1	1	281	105	176	117	164		71.3
Pennsylvania.....	6		6	711		711	262	449		58.4
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	22	1	21	4,235	550	3,685	1,653	2,582		64.0
Indiana.....	5	1	4	1,500	140	1,360	648	852		76.1
Illinois.....	21	8	13	4,227	2,092	2,135	1,557	2,520	150	61.8
Michigan.....	18	1	17	2,740	495	2,245	803	1,442	495	55.7
Wisconsin.....	2		2	271		271	74	197		37.6
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	10	3	7	2,303	1,093	1,210	899	1,404		64.0
Iowa.....	20	1	19	3,983	309	3,674	1,505	2,478		60.7
Missouri.....	5		5	789		789	296	358	135	82.7
North Dakota.....	3		3	239		239	92	147		62.6
South Dakota.....	5		5	987		987	412	575		71.7
Nebraska.....	12	3	9	2,883	1,162	1,721	1,146	1,737		66.0
Kansas.....	15	3	12	2,870	515	2,355	1,134	1,736		65.3
South Atlantic:										
West Virginia.....	2		2	115		115	45	70		
Georgia.....	1	1		131	131		54	77		
Florida.....	1		1	32		32	18	14		
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	1		1	44		44	14	30		
Alabama.....	1		1	7		7	2	5		

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

TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: FEDERATED CHURCHES—Continued

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>West South Central:</b>										
Arkansas.....	4	1	3	469	157	312	168	208	93	80.8
Louisiana.....	1	1		174	174		62	112		55.4
Oklahoma.....	3		3	1,135		1,135	424	711		59.6
Texas.....	2	2		1,640	1,640		521	821	298	63.5
<b>Mountain:</b>										
Montana.....	4		4	602		602	238	364		65.4
Idaho.....	1		1	158		158	60	98		
Colorado.....	2		2	430		430	28	82	320	
New Mexico.....	2		2	151		151	66	85		
Arizona.....	1	1		299	299		121	178		68.0
Utah.....	2	2		69	69		38	31		
Nevada.....	1	1		189	189		57	132		43.2
<b>Pacific:</b>										
Washington.....	14	3	11	2,142	960	1,182	802	1,340		59.9
Oregon.....	2		2	260		260	84	176		47.7
California.....	14	5	9	3,077	1,559	1,518	1,016	1,594	467	63.7

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

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, BY STATES, 1926: FEDERATED CHURCHES

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

STATE	Number of churches	Number of members	MEMBERSHIP BY AGE			
			Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 <sup>1</sup>
<b>United States.....</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>59,977</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>51,511</b>	<b>6,365</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Maine.....	20	2,118		1,476	642	
New Hampshire.....	15	1,288	11	1,277		0.9
Vermont.....	40	5,093	47	4,829	217	1.0
Massachusetts.....	36	6,059	35	5,317	707	0.7
Connecticut.....	13	1,415	9	1,406		0.6
New York.....	31	4,783	130	4,494	159	2.8
Pennsylvania.....	6	711	10	701		1.4
Ohio.....	22	4,235	134	4,101		3.2
Indiana.....	5	1,500	189	1,311		12.6
Illinois.....	21	4,227	148	3,335	744	4.2
Michigan.....	18	2,740	111	2,134	495	4.9
Minnesota.....	10	2,303	88	2,215		3.8
Iowa.....	20	3,983	199	3,784		5.0
Missouri.....	5	789	39	615	135	6.0
North Dakota.....	3	239	2	237		0.8
South Dakota.....	5	987	99	715	173	12.2
Nebraska.....	12	2,883	211	2,672		7.3
Kansas.....	15	2,870	168	2,702		5.9
Arkansas.....	4	469	13	363	93	3.5
Oklahoma.....	3	1,135	85	1,050		7.5
Montana.....	4	602	2	425	175	0.5
Washington.....	14	2,142	77	1,893	172	3.9
California.....	14	3,077	151	2,233	693	6.3
Other States.....	25	4,329	143	2,226	1,960	6.0

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

TABLE 4.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:  
FEDERATED CHURCHES

[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.....	361	552	343	\$6,159,725	62	\$235,530	285	\$1,147,950	33	\$53,805
Maine.....	20	27	19	224,900	1	5,000	10	35,500	2	3,500
New Hampshire.....	15	25	15	198,300	1	1,000	12	44,400		
Vermont.....	40	64	38	533,375	4	11,260	37	108,100		
Massachusetts.....	36	52	33	649,550	4	17,800	24	111,550	3	6,400
Connecticut.....	13	24	13	223,800	2	16,000	11	45,200	1	600
New York.....	31	54	30	530,800	2	6,700	23	58,200	2	300
Pennsylvania.....	6	10	6	52,900			4	9,000		
Ohio.....	22	35	20	462,500	3	10,100	18	87,000	3	4,500
Indiana.....	5	9	5	138,000	2	2,620	5	22,000	1	2,500
Illinois.....	21	31	20	538,900	3	2,500	16	82,500	4	11,700
Michigan.....	18	31	17	221,000	4	2,675	17	55,500		
Minnesota.....	10	15	10	171,700	4	3,140	10	43,400	2	2,550
Iowa.....	20	27	20	220,100	1	500	18	64,100	2	3,100
Missouri.....	5	6	5	39,000				(1)		
North Dakota.....	3	4	3	17,000	2	2,750		(1)		
South Dakota.....	5	9	5	53,500	1	400	5	16,000		
Nebraska.....	12	21	12	272,900	4	13,820	11	45,800	4	8,600
Kansas.....	15	23	15	226,600	5	37,900	12	31,000	2	1,300
Arkansas.....	4	5	4	54,500				(1)		
Oklahoma.....	3	4	3	55,000	2	4,200	3	9,500	1	300
Montana.....	4	6	4	28,600	1	2,000	3	5,500		
Washington.....	14	17	11	139,100	5	16,015	9	20,300	3	1,405
California.....	14	21	14	334,700	4	10,500	14	67,900		
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	25	32	21	773,000	7	68,650	23	185,500	3	7,050

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

<sup>2</sup> The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 5 churches in Missouri, North Dakota, and Arkansas.

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

### HISTORY

The Federated Church represents one of the forms under which two or more churches in a community have united for the joint prosecution of their work. The organization of united churches of the various types in rural and village communities is an interesting phase of religious development, yet in its infancy, upon which some light is thrown by the census of religious bodies. The consolidation of church activities in places where the maintenance of two or more churches was found to be impracticable, or at least ineffective, is due largely to two factors, namely, the changes that are taking place in the ideals of church service and changes in local economic conditions.

While at one time in the development of the church denominational rivalries were so intense as to preclude organic union on any basis, to-day less emphasis is placed on ancient creeds and other historic causes of separation. Furthermore, the conviction is growing among all denominations that the message of the gospel is in part social, as well as individual.

<sup>1</sup> In the preparation of this general statement a considerable amount of material, for which due acknowledgment is made, has been taken from the volume entitled "United Churches," by Elizabeth R. Hooker, published in 1926 by the Institute of Social and Religious Research, in New York City.

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
FEDERATED CHURCHES

[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.....	361	354	\$1,272,455	\$1,082,730	\$189,725	347	5,352	46,820
Maine.....	20	19	41,076	37,265	3,811	19	212	1,574
New Hampshire.....	15	15	32,484	30,308	2,176	14	134	847
Vermont.....	40	39	108,529	94,007	14,522	36	419	2,895
Massachusetts.....	36	36	143,472	127,498	15,974	36	455	3,911
Connecticut.....	13	13	36,885	32,671	4,214	13	125	980
New York.....	31	29	79,659	69,128	10,531	29	368	2,854
Pennsylvania.....	6	6	11,233	8,923	2,310	5	91	648
Ohio.....	22	22	67,515	57,409	10,106	21	365	3,503
Indiana.....	5	5	22,136	17,750	4,386	5	135	1,384
Illinois.....	21	20	94,041	80,143	13,898	20	377	3,245
Michigan.....	18	18	45,482	40,470	5,012	17	271	2,396
Minnesota.....	10	10	48,767	41,393	7,374	10	207	1,778
Iowa.....	20	20	70,844	59,594	11,250	20	357	3,432
Missouri.....	5	5	11,797	8,752	3,045	5	86	704
North Dakota.....	3	3	3,114	2,719	395	3	20	185
South Dakota.....	5	5	23,122	19,100	4,022	5	72	843
Nebraska.....	12	12	93,686	85,468	8,218	12	235	2,586
Kansas.....	15	15	48,731	42,479	6,252	15	286	2,560
Arkansas.....	4	4	12,234	6,343	5,891	4	44	415
Oklahoma.....	3	3	21,567	12,923	8,644	3	81	918
Washington.....	14	14	44,301	36,635	7,666	13	250	2,190
California.....	14	14	87,950	68,159	19,791	14	285	2,714
Other States.....	29	27	123,830	103,593	20,237	28	477	4,258

This change is well expressed by a modern church historian: "Not a rescue by individual salvation only, but the establishment of a reign of righteousness among men, has become increasingly the ideal \* \* \*. Emphasis is therefore placed on service in preventative and reformatory effort."<sup>2</sup> This ideal makes possible the union of two or more churches under certain circumstances, where a narrow adherence to creeds might widely separate them.

Changing economic conditions have fostered the new attitude, especially in the rural regions. The outlook of country people has been broadened by the enlarged opportunities afforded by better transportation facilities, consolidated schools, rural free delivery of mail, and the increased use of the telephone and radio. Not the least of the factors contributing toward this closer relationship is the campaign of education in community spirit which has been conducted by various social welfare agencies.

When, therefore, by reason of changes occasioned by the flow of population from country to city, reduced local economic prosperity, or increased cost of church maintenance, an organized religious body becomes too weak to be effective, union with another local church in like circumstances seems the natural and logical step. The result has been the rise of the united churches in various forms.

<sup>2</sup> Walker: A History of the Christian Church, p. 587.

Since the last preceding census of religious bodies, in 1916, there has been a very evident increase in the number of united churches of various types. These were formerly included, without discrimination, in the data for Independent Churches. In 1926, however, reports somewhat different from those required from the strictly denominational church were obtained from all united churches, including the Federated Churches, whose location could be ascertained by the Census Bureau. Special letters defining terms and asking specific questions were sent to the minister or other official of each united church, and the classifications here presented are based on definite information regarding the characteristics of each church as furnished in the replies sent by a responsible official of the church.

As here used, the term "united church" indicates a church whose membership, either regular or associate, is composed of elements representing different denominations, the elements in some cases being organized churches and in others individuals. The four types or groups of united churches found in the United States, as reported to the Census of Religious Bodies, in the order of their importance, are:

1. *Denominational united*, a type in which one or more of the uniting churches has given up its denominational allegiance in order to merge with another church and has accepted the denominational connection of the other.
2. *Federated*, a type in which each of the combining units retains its connection with its own denominational body.
3. *Undenominational*, a type in which union results in an organized church not connected with any denominational body.
4. *Affiliated*, a type resembling the undenominational church in control of its local affairs, but having an attenuated connection with a denominational body, usually for ministerial supply and distribution of benevolences only.

As the first and fourth groups are more or less closely identified with their denominations, their statistics have been included in the denominational totals. The third, or undenominational group, has been included in the statistics for Independent Churches.

The Federated Churches, however, since each maintains relations with more than one of the established denominations, can not well be consolidated with any denominational group, and they are therefore given independent presentation in this report. There is further reason for making these churches the subject of a special presentation in that the federation of churches is of particular interest as affording a solution to a vexing problem—the problem of what to do with those churches in a rural group which are too weak to be efficient and yet are staunchly loyal to their denominations.

After it had been definitely established that a church was a Federated Church, a special report giving the number of members in each of its denominational units was obtained from it, as well as the number of "federated" or "undenominational" members, if provision was made for such membership.

The term "community church" is not employed as a classifying term in the census reports, because a study of the word, as found in the schedules of churches reporting to the Census Bureau, disclosed that its use was ambiguous, more than half a dozen different usages being noted.<sup>3</sup> The same diversity in use was found in regard to the term "union church."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Investigation of the schedules for 155 churches which used the word "community" as a part of their name disclosed the following facts: 107 were either "denominational" or "denominational united," 27 "rendered service to the community"; 14 were independent; 4 were federated; 2 were "combination churches," and 1 "used the word for its appeal."

<sup>4</sup> Investigation of the schedules for 98 churches which used the word "union" as a part of their name disclosed the following facts: 40 used the term as a "purely local" name; 19 were either "denominational" or "denominational united"; 11 were "union" only in ownership of building; 11 were "union" only historically; 8 were unions of churches of the same denomination; 7 were federated; 2 stated "it means nothing."

As indicated above, Federated Churches are those made up of two or more denominational organizations, each maintaining a separate membership and perhaps some separate activities. The Federated Church acts as one body, however, in the holding of religious services and, usually, in the maintenance of a Sunday school and in most or all social activities. The different denominational units of which the Federated Church is composed are closely identified with their respective denominations, not only by retention of their distinctive membership, but also by the common practice in each unit of recognizing its missionary obligations and sending to its own denominational board contributions for home and foreign missions, etc., and of keeping such property as it may own in the hands of its own trustees. They are united for local purposes only, in calling and paying a minister, in the holding of services, and in maintaining a common Sunday school. The distinguishing characteristics of this type of church are, therefore, that the two or more units enter into an agreement to conduct most of their activities as a single church, but to preserve the organic integrity of each denominational group.

The first Federated Church is said to have been formed in Massachusetts in 1887. Its formation appears to have been due to economic pressure, as the two churches which united were unable to finance their operations separately and made the experiment of joining for local activities. This experiment proved successful.

Church leaders who were alarmed at the overchurched situation in the rural sections of New England were quick to recognize the possibilities of this type of united church and not only lent their influence to prevent the organization of additional competing churches, but actively cooperated in the formation of Federated Churches. In fact, it is stated that the first Federated Church in Vermont, organized in 1899, was formed at the suggestion of denominational leaders. Both official and local leadership have played important parts in the organizing of this type of church, but it is probable that local necessity and a deeper sense of the church's responsibility for its immediate environment have been the determining factors in a majority of cases.

Federated Churches were formed at first only in New England, but by the year 1912 they had spread to many other parts of the country. The schedules returned for the 1926 census show 361 Federated Churches, located in 40 States of the Union. Of the total number reporting, 164, or 45.4 per cent, were found in New England and the Middle Atlantic States, and 138, or 38.2 per cent, in the North Central States. Thirty such churches were located in the Pacific States, while 16 were in the South and 13 in the Mountain States.

Of the whole number, only 60 churches, or less than 17 per cent, were reported as being located in urban territory, which includes all cities or incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, while 301 churches, or more than 83 per cent, were in rural territory, which comprises the remainder of the country.

#### DOCTRINE

Each unit, or constituent part, of the Federated Church retains in its entirety the doctrine of the denominational body to which it adheres; and the membership requirements of each unit correspond exactly to those of the denomination.

#### ORGANIZATION

In order to function as a single body, the Federated Church has, besides officials of the ordinary church of the denominational type, a joint committee which is in charge of the general activities of the church. This committee is generally representative of the units comprising the church, although in some

churches it is selected without reference to such representation. Frequently important officers, such as elders and deacons, are chosen by the units separately. The history of these churches seems to indicate, however, that the longer the church exists as a federation the fewer officers are elected by action of the separate units. The same tendency toward united action is noted in regard to the finances of the Federated Church. At first the units are often held responsible for the raising of a proportionate share of the budget, but after the federation has lasted for some time the budget is generally provided for by the entire church.

All local expenses, including the salary of the minister, are paid by the church as a whole. In many Federated Churches the minister is chosen alternately from the different denominations represented by the units constituting the church; in others there is an agreement to procure the minister from one denomination only; while still others agree to disregard the denomination of the minister in making a choice.

Sunday schools are generally held in common. Of the 361 Federated Churches reporting to the Census Bureau, 347 reported Sunday schools, which were almost always held jointly.

The great majority of the churches have two denominational units only, as, for example, a Congregational unit and a Methodist unit. About 10 per cent of the total number have three denominational units, but the churches composed of more than three such units are comparatively few.

Certain denominations were found to predominate in this type of church. More than three-fourths of the total number of units of all Federated Churches studied belonged to four denominations. The predominance of these denominations, in the 799 denominational units making up the whole number of Federated Churches reporting, is indicated below:

Congregational.....	225
Methodist Episcopal.....	195
Northern Baptist.....	105
Presbyterian in the United States of America.....	98
Nineteen other denominations.....	176

The average membership of the Federated Churches in urban and rural churches, as compared with that of strictly denominational churches, is shown in the table below:

TABLE 6.—AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP OF FEDERATED CHURCHES AND OF SELECTED DENOMINATIONS IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926

DENOMINATION	Total number of churches	Total average membership per church	Average membership per church in urban territory	Average membership per church in rural territory
Federated Churches.....	361	166	272	145
Congregational Churches.....	5,028	175	318	87
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	28,130	156	403	91
Northern Baptist Convention.....	7,611	169	310	85
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.....	8,947	212	409	97

This table indicates that the average membership of Federated Churches is lower in urban territory than the averages for churches of the four denominations which predominate in the formation of the federations here considered and correspondingly higher in rural territory. As the Federated Churches are



largely products of rural conditions, and as their special mission is the furnishing of efficient church organizations in localities formerly weak in this respect, their larger membership in rural territory indicates that the movement is a successful one.

Students of the subject of Federated Churches have made certain interesting observations concerning their tendencies, as well as those of the other types of united churches. It has been found that a church which has organized in one way sometimes changes to another type of united church, or even into a strictly denominational church of the traditional sort. For example, a denominational united church may in time ally itself with one or the other of the included denominations, or it may become an undenominational church, or it may become an affiliated church; but it was found that few churches which had united by actually consolidating or combining their elements ever again resume separate existence.

Some of the Federated Churches, however, do dissolve and permit the constituent units to resume their original status, though the majority become more and more closely united. Federated Churches, it may be said in general, have a tendency to develop either into strictly denominational churches or into churches which are affiliated with a single denomination. But it has been ascertained that after a Federated Church has lasted as such for two years the federation is likely to be permanent, and that after five years of such existence the federation is rarely abandoned.

A considerable number of churches at first reported to the census as Federated Churches were found on investigation not to be federated, but churches in process of change from one type to another. The greatest number of these were found to be in effect denominational united churches—or churches having connection with one denominational body only—and their statistics were included in the statistics of that body.

The collection of the statistics for Federated Churches, through lack of time and resources, did not go so far as to investigate the methods of financial administration. Their problems of organization could not be studied in detail. The value of property was not learned for the separate units. As previously stated, however, an effort was made to segregate the membership on the basis of their denominational affiliation, with the results shown in Table 7. These figures, it should be noted, while they are based upon the reports of responsible officers of the individual churches, must in some cases represent only carefully prepared estimates; and they do not show the churches, sometimes of considerable size, in which a whole or a part of the membership was not distributed according to denomination, nor cases in which the particular combination appeared only once or twice.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER OF FEDERATED CHURCHES, AND MEMBERSHIP BY CONSTITUENT DENOMINATIONS, 1926

DENOMINATIONAL UNIT	Number of churches	Number of members	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>361</b>	<b>59,977</b>	
Congregational.....	87	{ 7,291	
Methodist Episcopal.....			{ 5,652
Congregational.....	41	{ 2,084	
Northern Baptist.....			{ 3,190
Methodist Episcopal.....	27	{ 2,652	
Presbyterian in the United States of America.....			{ 1,696
Congregational.....	22	{ 3,507	
Presbyterian in the United States of America.....			{ 3,175
Northern Baptist.....	20	{ 960	
Methodist Episcopal.....			{ 1,165
Northern Baptist.....	15	{ 597	
Congregational.....			{ 1,129
Methodist Episcopal.....			
Northern Baptist.....	11	{ 935	
Presbyterian in the United States of America.....			{ 1,118
Congregational.....	9	{ 795	
Universalist.....			{ 388
Methodist Episcopal.....	8	{ 1,685	
Methodist Episcopal, South.....			{ 983
Congregational.....	6	{ 1,139	
Disciples of Christ.....			{ 318
Congregational.....	5	{ 223	
Unitarian.....			{ 177
Northern Baptist.....	4	{ 259	
Methodist Episcopal.....			{ 402
Presbyterian in the United States of America.....			
Presbyterian in the United States.....	3	{ 924	
Presbyterian in the United States of America.....			{ 873
Unitarian.....	3	{ 442	
Universalist.....			{ 544
Christian Church.....	3	{ 188	
Congregational.....			{ 482
Disciples of Christ.....	3	{ 215	
Presbyterian in the United States of America.....			{ 406
Congregational.....	3	{ 310	
United Presbyterian.....			{ 181
Other Federated Churches <sup>1</sup> .....	91	13,030	

<sup>1</sup> Includes those in which there are less than three churches with the same constituent denominations and those in which the membership was not reported separately by denominations.

The denominational connection of all the members of Federated Churches is given by States, without regard to the grouping of the several denominations in individual churches, in Table 8.

TABLE 8.—MEMBERSHIP OF FEDERATED CHURCHES, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION, BY STATES, 1926

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	Total number of members	DENOMINATIONS										
		Congregationalist	Methodist Episcopal	Presbyterian U. S. A.	Baptist, North	Methodist Episcopal, South	Presbyterian U. S.	Universalist	Christian	Disciples	Unitarian	All other and not reported
United States..	59,977	20,152	13,861	9,061	5,375	1,312	1,087	1,080	831	732	644	5,842
New England:												
Maine.....	2,118	857	184		353			207				517
New Hampshire.....	1,288	623	187	1	356			7			41	73
Vermont.....	5,093	2,408	1,406		527			542			210	
Massachusetts.....	6,059	3,107	776		712			117		29	136	1,182
Connecticut.....	1,415	839	374		108							94
Middle Atlantic:												
New York.....	4,783	865	1,051	837	1,029			162			172	667
New Jersey.....	281		68	108				45			60	
Pennsylvania.....	711	191	92	107	58				8	52		203
East North Central:												
Ohio.....	4,235	1,787	660	935	124				64	289		376
Indiana.....	1,500		804	368	188							140
Illinois.....	4,227	1,763	538	1,052	412					25		437
Michigan.....	2,740	336	754	295	812				48			495
Wisconsin.....	271	60	28	183								
West North Central:												
Minnesota.....	2,303	1,386	194	553	145							25
Iowa.....	3,983	1,855	933	799	47							349
Missouri.....	789		204	230		99			236			20
North Dakota.....	239	72	107	60								
South Dakota.....	987	42	387	395	163							
Nebraska.....	2,883	1,454	606	632	31				39	121		
Kansas.....	2,870	705	1,147	375	191				72	77	25	278
West South Central:												
Arkansas.....	469	2		127		209	82		5			44
Louisiana.....	174	68					106					
Oklahoma.....	1,135	288	624			223						
Texas.....	1,640			786			854					
Mountain:												
Montana.....	602		205	38	17	118			101	48		75
Idaho.....	158		88	70								
Colorado.....	430		214	116								100
New Mexico.....	151		52	1		6			35			57
Arizona.....	299		148	95	30							26
Nevada.....	189	122		67								
Pacific:												
Washington.....	2,142	890	400	515	12	63			106	91		65
Oregon.....	260		114	102								44
California.....	3,077	333	1,486	174	18	561	45		66			394
Other States.....	476	99	30	40	42	33			51			181