

HOLINESS CHURCH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Holiness 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 Holiness Church includes all persons who have made profession of faith and a belief in the doctrines of the church, and have been admitted by a majority vote. Baptism by water is required, but the exact mode is left to individual choice.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	32	23	9		
Members	861	662	199	76.9	23.1
Average per church.....	27	29	22		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	289	208	81	72.0	28.0
Female.....	572	454	118	79.4	20.6
Males per 100 females.....	50.5	45.8	68.6		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	11	6	5		
13 years and over.....	718	543	175	75.6	24.4
Age not reported.....	132	113	19	85.6	14.4
Per cent under 13 years ³	1.5	1.1	2.8		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	30	21	9		
Value—Churches reporting.....	29	21	8		
Amount reported.....	\$148,650	\$131,750	\$16,900	88.6	11.4
Average per church.....	\$5,126	\$6,274	\$2,113		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	5	4	1		
Amount reported.....	\$1,175	\$875	\$300	74.5	25.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	24	17	7		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	16	12	4		
Amount reported.....	\$39,350	\$34,350	\$5,000	87.3	12.7
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2	2			
Amount reported.....	\$601	\$601		100.0	
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	14	10	4		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	30	22	8		
Amount reported.....	\$23,913	\$14,984	\$8,929	62.7	37.3
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$19,239	\$11,476	\$7,763	59.6	40.4
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$4,674	\$3,508	\$1,166	75.1	24.9
Average expenditure per church.....	\$797	\$681	\$1,116		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	25	18	7		
Officers and teachers.....	151	105	46	69.5	30.5
Scholars.....	811	532	279	65.6	34.4

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 32 active Holiness churches, with 861 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 32 churches and the classification by age was reported by 26 churches, including, however, only 5 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

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

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1926 AND 1916: HOLINESS CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916
Churches (local organizations).....	32	33
Increase ¹ over preceding census:		
Number.....	-1	
Per cent ²		
Members.....	861	926
Increase ¹ over preceding census:		
Number.....	-65	
Per cent.....	-7.0	
Average membership per church.....	27	28
Church edifices:		
Number.....	30	28
Value—Churches reporting.....	29	28
Amount reported.....	\$148,650	\$34,200
Average per church.....	\$5,126	\$1,221
Debt—Churches reporting.....	5	3
Amount reported.....	\$1,175	\$652
Parsonages:		
Value—Churches reporting.....	16	7
Amount reported.....	\$39,350	\$5,600
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2	
Amount reported.....	\$601	
Expenditures during year:		
Churches reporting.....	30	28
Amount reported.....	\$23,913	\$8,988
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$19,239	\$6,427
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$4,674	\$2,361
Not classified.....		\$200
Average expenditure per church.....	\$797	\$321
Sunday schools:		
Churches reporting.....	25	21
Officers and teachers.....	151	111
Scholars.....	811	680

¹ A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

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

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Holiness 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 two censuses of 1926 and 1916, 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.

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

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females ⁽¹⁾
United States.....	32	23	9	861	662	199	289	572	50.5
East North Central:									
Indiana.....	1	1		16	16		4	12	
Illinois.....	1	1		15	15		3	12	
South Atlantic:									
Georgia.....	1	1		6	6		3	3	
East South Central:									
Kentucky.....	13	9	4	435	357	78	120	315	38.1
Tennessee.....	2	2		51	51		18	33	
Pacific:									
California.....	14	9	5	338	217	121	141	197	71.6

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

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1926 AND 1916, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: HOLINESS CHURCH

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

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES		NUMBER OF MEMBERS		MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1926	1916	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	32	33	861	926	11	718	132	1.5
Kentucky.....	13	12	435	372	4	412	19	1.0
Tennessee.....	2	3	51	100		18	33	
California.....	14	14	338	368	7	251	80	2.7
Other States.....	3	4	37	86		37		

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

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: HOLINESS 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.....	32	30	29	\$148,650	5	\$1,175	16	\$39,350	2	\$601
Kentucky.....	13	12	12	25,050	5	1,175		(1)		(1)
California.....	14	15	14	117,900			13	36,550		
Other States ²	5	3	3	5,700			3	2,800	2	601

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 1 church in Kentucky.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
HOLINESS 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.....	32	30	\$23, 913	\$19, 239	\$4, 674	25	181	811
Kentucky.....	13	12	6, 119	5, 224	895	12	71	343
California.....	14	13	16, 551	12, 898	3, 653	9	64	405
Other States.....	5	5	1, 243	1, 117	126	4	18	64

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

About 1880 the Rev. Hardin Wallace, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, accompanied by James J. A. Singer, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Henry Ashcroft, a minister of the Free Methodist Church, went through the southern part of California preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins, or justification by faith, of the sinner; and, for believers, sanctification or heart purity, which also might be received by faith and subsequent to regeneration or justification. A considerable number of persons followed his line of teaching, and numerous bands were formed under the name "Holiness Band," the members retaining, however, their membership or identity with the churches of which they were already members. Also many new converts joined, who had had no church connection.

With the development of these bands and the acquisition of property for the conduct of their worship, certain legal difficulties arose, and in 1896 they became incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

From California the work extended into other States and was especially prominent in Kentucky and Tennessee. The churches in Tennessee constitute a district assembly of the entire body, but the churches in Kentucky are included in the corporate body of California.

DOCTRINE

The doctrine of the Holiness Church is Methodist or Wesleyan, following the principles laid down by John Wesley. It teaches repentance, restitution, confession, and the forsaking of sin, as the part for the sinner; and the forgiveness of sin and the divine light received by the repentant sinner, as the part from God.

The church teaches that it is the privilege as well as the duty of every believer to consecrate himself to God without reserve and that the result of such consecration will be sanctification, meaning by that term freedom from the "carnal mind" and the tendency to sin. Specific conditions of church membership are baptism by water (the mode being chosen by the candidate) and sanctification. The church also emphasizes belief in prohibition, abstinence from drugs and tobacco, and from all poisons that are "against the best for God"; also belief in the second coming of Christ, and divine healing by faith. Divorce is allowed for but one cause, adultery; membership in secret societies is disapproved and forbidden; and plain dress, avoiding extravagance and the use of jewelry, especially for show, is inculcated.

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 Elder James F. Washburn, by authority of Rev. George E. Houghton, presiding elder of the Holiness Church, and approved by him in its present form.

ORGANIZATION

Local churches are self-directing, but there is a board of 12 elders who care for the spiritual welfare of the church and serve between the meetings of the assembly. There is, in addition, a board of nine trustees, whose office it is to look after the properties of the church and who hold that property subject to the General Assembly, which is composed of representatives from the churches. District assemblies are formed under the care of superintendents who are members of the board of elders of the General Assembly, but who have also their own official board which transacts the business pertaining to the district and handles its property without special voice of the General Assembly. Ministers are selected on their qualifications, upon examination by the church. For those holding permanent credentials there is a regular form of ordination. Those having pastorates are looked upon as leaders rather than dictators, no fixed salaries are paid, and as many of the congregations are small and unable to pay a minister, they are frequently obliged to take other work for the support of their families.

WORK

The Holiness Church is missionary in spirit and evangelistic in practice, carrying on its activities largely by freewill offerings of the churches, there being no taxation or assessment.