

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, GENERAL COUNCIL

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Assemblies of God, General Council, 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 Assemblies of God, General Council, consists of persons who profess rebirth, live consistent Christian lives, and assume personal responsibility for the conduct of the church.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, GENERAL COUNCIL

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	671	329	342	49.0	51.0
Members	47,950	32,725	15,225	68.2	31.8
Average per church.....	71	99	45		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	18,186	12,531	5,655	68.9	31.1
Female.....	28,249	18,849	9,400	66.7	33.3
Sex not reported.....	1,515	1,345	170	88.8	11.2
* Males per 100 females.....	64.4	66.5	60.2		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	4,116	2,730	1,386	66.3	33.7
13 years and over.....	35,952	23,591	12,361	65.6	34.4
Age not reported.....	7,882	6,404	1,478	81.2	18.8
Per cent under 13 years ³	10.3	10.4	10.1		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	497	251	246	50.5	49.5
Value—Churches reporting.....	479	242	237	50.5	49.5
Amount reported.....	\$3,468,989	\$3,022,678	\$446,311	87.1	12.9
Average per church.....	\$7,242	\$12,490	\$1,833		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	260	175	85	67.3	32.7
Amount reported.....	\$1,087,362	\$1,002,087	\$85,275	92.2	7.8
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	197	68	129	32.0	68.0
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	125	58	67	46.4	53.6
Amount reported.....	\$255,815	\$173,776	\$77,040	68.9	31.1
Debt—Churches reporting.....	50	30	20		
Amount reported.....	\$77,075	\$68,843	\$8,232	89.3	10.7
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	56	17	39		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	595	299	296	50.3	49.7
Amount reported.....	\$1,405,491	\$1,161,090	\$244,401	82.6	17.4
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,089,993	\$896,804	\$191,189	82.5	17.5
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$273,670	\$227,018	\$46,652	83.0	17.0
Not classified.....	\$41,828	\$35,268	\$6,560	84.3	15.7
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2,362	\$3,883	\$826		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	549	282	267	51.4	48.6
Officers and teachers.....	4,232	2,534	1,698	60.9	39.1
Scholars.....	41,255	26,084	15,171	63.2	36.8

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 671 active organizations of Assemblies of God, General Council, with 47,950 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 651 churches and the classification by age was reported by 579 churches, including, however, only 360 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: ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, GENERAL COUNCIL

ITEM	1926	1916
Churches (local organizations)	671	118
Increase over preceding census:		
Number.....	553	
Per cent.....	468.6	
Members	47,950	6,708
Increase over preceding census:		
Number.....	41,247	
Per cent.....	615.4	
Average membership per church.....	71	57
Church edifices:		
Number.....	497	63
Value—Churches reporting.....	479	63
Amount reported.....	\$3,468,989	\$101,779
Average per church.....	\$7,242	\$1,616
Debt—Churches reporting.....	260	31
Amount reported.....	\$1,087,362	\$12,460
Parsonages:		
Value—Churches reporting.....	125	10
Amount reported.....	\$255,815	\$7,021
Debt—Churches reporting.....	50	
Amount reported.....	\$77,075	
Expenditures during year:		
Churches reporting.....	595	96
Amount reported.....	\$1,405,491	\$61,941
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,089,993	\$45,675
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$273,670	\$16,266
Not classified.....	\$41,828	
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2,362	\$645
Sunday schools:		
Churches reporting.....	549	79
Officers and teachers.....	4,232	460
Scholars.....	41,255	4,379

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Assemblies of God, General Council, 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 last two censuses, 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: ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, GENERAL COUNCIL

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	To- tal	Ur- ban	Ru- ral	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 fe- males ¹
United States	671	329	342	47,950	32,725	15,225	18,186	28,249	1,515	64.4
New England:										
Maine.....	1	1	---	95	95	---	35	60	---	---
New Hampshire.....	2	1	1	51	25	26	12	14	25	---
Massachusetts.....	3	3	---	123	123	---	52	71	---	---
Connecticut.....	5	4	1	133	117	16	55	78	---	---
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	17	15	2	2,023	1,951	72	913	1,110	---	82.3
New Jersey.....	12	10	2	805	717	88	321	484	---	66.3
Pennsylvania.....	27	18	9	2,534	1,908	626	920	1,464	150	62.8
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	20	17	3	2,162	2,052	110	809	1,237	116	65.4
Indiana.....	11	8	3	711	547	164	269	442	---	60.9
Illinois.....	36	26	10	4,029	3,488	541	1,603	2,390	36	67.1
Michigan.....	12	9	3	833	756	77	324	434	75	74.7
Wisconsin.....	3	3	---	817	817	---	314	503	---	62.4
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	7	3	4	603	260	334	243	360	---	67.5
Iowa.....	9	3	6	400	174	226	159	241	---	66.0
Missouri.....	40	13	27	2,595	1,472	1,123	891	1,626	78	54.8
North Dakota.....	4	2	2	142	63	79	62	80	---	---
Nebraska.....	13	4	9	765	230	535	352	413	---	85.2
Kansas.....	30	15	15	1,736	1,120	616	515	996	225	51.7
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	1	1	---	143	143	---	55	88	---	---
Maryland.....	8	4	4	505	409	96	161	302	42	53.3
District of Co- lumbia.....	2	2	---	355	355	---	150	205	---	73.2
Virginia.....	4	2	2	152	66	86	49	103	---	47.6
West Virginia.....	6	1	5	286	40	246	122	164	---	74.4
North Carolina.....	1	1	---	33	33	---	18	15	---	---
South Carolina.....	1	1	---	20	20	---	8	12	---	---
Georgia.....	1	---	1	38	---	38	11	27	---	---
Florida.....	32	10	22	1,697	909	788	576	983	138	58.6
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	7	2	5	213	98	115	87	126	---	69.0
Tennessee.....	5	4	1	364	353	11	109	255	---	42.7
Alabama.....	43	3	40	1,391	181	1,210	497	894	---	55.6
Mississippi.....	7	5	2	219	170	49	69	150	---	46.0
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	72	18	54	3,641	1,206	2,435	1,167	2,354	120	49.6
Louisiana.....	6	---	6	459	---	459	168	291	---	57.7
Oklahoma.....	41	16	25	2,750	1,305	1,445	862	1,538	350	56.0
Texas.....	60	30	30	3,793	2,510	1,283	1,422	2,371	---	60.0
Mountain:										
Montana.....	6	2	4	215	76	139	90	125	---	72.0
Idaho.....	2	1	1	77	25	52	29	48	---	---
Colorado.....	11	9	2	817	753	64	328	459	30	71.5
New Mexico.....	4	1	3	135	25	110	52	83	---	---
Arizona.....	4	2	2	159	118	41	54	105	---	51.4
Pacific:										
Washington.....	11	7	4	1,225	853	372	516	709	---	72.8
Oregon.....	7	2	5	613	371	242	234	309	70	75.7
California.....	77	50	27	8,093	6,782	1,311	3,503	4,530	60	77.3

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: ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, GENERAL COUNCIL

[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.....	671	118	47,950	6,703	4,116	35,952	7,882	10.3
Massachusetts.....	3	—	123	—	2	71	50	—
Connecticut.....	5	—	133	—	—	78	55	—
New York.....	17	6	2,023	730	136	1,767	120	7.1
New Jersey.....	12	5	805	143	120	633	52	15.9
Pennsylvania.....	27	3	2,534	335	243	2,068	223	10.5
Ohio.....	20	—	2,162	—	152	1,254	756	10.8
Indiana.....	11	—	711	—	130	581	—	18.3
Illinois.....	36	3	4,029	331	180	2,191	1,658	7.6
Michigan.....	12	—	833	—	67	691	75	8.8
Wisconsin.....	3	2	817	316	154	663	—	18.8
Minnesota.....	7	1	603	75	35	568	—	5.8
Iowa.....	9	4	400	182	69	331	—	17.3
Missouri.....	40	11	2,595	531	138	1,902	555	6.8
North Dakota.....	4	—	142	—	16	91	35	15.0
Nebraska.....	13	2	765	60	165	539	61	23.4
Kansas.....	30	6	1,736	242	135	1,086	515	11.1
Maryland.....	8	4	505	170	15	354	136	4.1
Virginia.....	4	1	152	24	3	129	20	2.3
West Virginia.....	6	2	286	69	13	273	—	4.5
Florida.....	32	6	1,697	285	76	1,329	292	5.4
Kentucky.....	7	1	213	27	7	185	21	3.6
Tennessee.....	5	—	364	—	1	263	100	0.4
Alabama.....	43	4	1,391	180	73	1,116	202	6.1
Mississippi.....	7	—	219	—	4	156	59	2.5
Arkansas.....	72	12	3,641	923	172	3,038	431	5.4
Louisiana.....	6	—	459	—	39	420	—	8.5
Oklahoma.....	41	13	2,750	780	236	2,047	467	10.3
Texas.....	60	25	3,793	897	281	3,239	273	8.0
Montana.....	6	—	215	—	31	184	—	14.4
Colorado.....	11	—	817	—	88	529	200	14.3
New Mexico.....	4	—	135	—	5	119	11	4.0
Arizona.....	4	1	159	48	16	143	—	10.1
Washington.....	11	2	1,225	60	233	899	93	20.6
Oregon.....	7	—	613	—	24	218	371	9.9
California.....	77	4	8,093	280	1,023	6,194	876	14.2
Other States.....	11	—	812	—	34	603	175	5.3

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

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION ¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

Following upon the great revival in 1907, a considerable number of churches, missions, or assemblies in the United States and Canada entered upon an individual and distinctively evangelistic type of mission work. This was at first purely independent and voluntary, but some association and mutual fellowship became recognized as valuable, and in 1914 a call was made for all interested in Bible order, system, united doctrine, etc., to meet at Hot Springs, Ark. About 100 delegates came to this meeting, representing a variety of denominations, and

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 Mr. J. R. Evans, secretary, General Council of the Assemblies of God.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, GENERAL COUNCIL

[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.....	671	497	479	\$3,468,989	260	\$1,087,362	125	\$255,815	50	\$77,075
Massachusetts.....	3	3	3	38,000	1	10,000				
Connecticut.....	5	4	4	30,000	4	11,242				
New York.....	17	15	15	363,500	10	101,150	4	14,500	2	7,500
New Jersey.....	12	10	10	157,500	9	80,919		(1)		(1)
Pennsylvania.....	27	14	13	343,300	9	125,850		(1)		(1)
Ohio.....	20	12	12	218,200	9	124,500		(1)		(1)
Indiana.....	11	5	5	45,000	5	16,600				
Illinois.....	36	30	29	238,775	20	68,565	4	9,100	2	2,650
Michigan.....	12	6	6	118,500	6	27,700		(1)		(1)
Wisconsin.....	3	3	3	68,500	3	28,000		(1)		(1)
Minnesota.....	7	7	7	47,800	3	16,069		(1)		(1)
Iowa.....	9	6	6	23,300	4	8,226		(1)		(1)
Missouri.....	40	31	27	173,700	13	43,243	8	9,200	3	602
Nebraska.....	13	10	9	21,575	6	3,720		(1)		(1)
Kansas.....	30	20	19	47,768	10	11,276		(1)		(1)
Maryland.....	8	8	7	42,700	2	13,300	3	7,700	1	850
West Virginia.....	6	4	3	16,500				(1)		
Florida.....	32	23	23	87,400	8	11,138	3	6,300	1	400
Kentucky.....	7	5	5	9,000	4	1,986		(1)		(1)
Tennessee.....	5	4	3	7,000				(1)		(1)
Alabama.....	43	32	32	47,300	8	3,213	5	5,300	1	400
Mississippi.....	7	7	7	12,650	2	2,000		(1)		(1)
Arkansas.....	72	56	55	91,596	17	13,686	20	20,575	7	6,220
Louisiana.....	6	6	6	5,600	3	725		(1)		(1)
Oklahoma.....	41	34	34	115,565	16	26,075	15	18,475	5	3,315
Texas.....	60	51	48	112,310	24	18,998	15	20,075	4	2,168
Colorado.....	11	5	5	34,150	5	25,700		(1)		(1)
New Mexico.....	4	4	4	3,650	2	206		(1)		(1)
Arizona.....	4	3	3	13,700	3	5,325				
Washington.....	11	10	10	106,200	9	49,493		(1)		(1)
Oregon.....	7	6	6	25,000	3	1,550		(1)		(1)
California.....	77	51	49	755,950	35	229,087	16	37,250	8	17,761
Other States ²	25	12	11	47,300	7	7,820	32	107,340	16	35,209

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 27 churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington, and Oregon.

some of them never having belonged to any denomination. An organization was agreed upon and incorporated in Arkansas in October and in Missouri in November, under the name of "Assemblies of God, General Council."

DOCTRINE

The Assemblies of God are mostly Arminian in doctrine, emphasizing the inspiration of the Scriptures; the fall and redemption of man; the baptism of the Holy Ghost; sanctification as the goal for all believers; the church a living organism; a divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry; divine healing; the premillennial and imminent coming of Jesus to judge the world in righteousness, while reigning on earth for a thousand years; everlasting punishment for the

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, GENERAL COUNCIL
 [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	671	595	\$1,405,491	\$1,089,993	\$273,670	\$41,828	549	4,232	41,255
Massachusetts.....	3	3	12,009	9,414	2,595	—	2	11	105
Connecticut.....	5	5	6,964	5,389	1,575	—	3	11	57
New York.....	17	16	67,491	45,753	21,738	—	13	109	854
New Jersey.....	12	12	53,082	41,986	11,096	—	11	78	624
Pennsylvania.....	27	26	154,905	125,877	26,760	2,268	25	233	1,940
Ohio.....	20	18	90,030	47,716	9,314	33,000	19	166	1,461
Indiana.....	11	10	16,164	12,914	3,250	—	9	80	635
Illinois.....	36	33	93,284	77,258	15,726	300	30	308	3,122
Michigan.....	12	10	25,385	18,515	5,970	900	11	81	795
Wisconsin.....	3	3	42,340	33,829	8,511	—	3	49	476
Minnesota.....	7	7	16,501	13,415	3,086	—	5	40	325
Iowa.....	9	8	6,142	5,443	699	—	8	57	355
Missouri.....	40	34	58,814	42,273	15,941	600	33	232	2,581
North Dakota.....	4	3	6,145	5,547	598	—	4	18	166
Nebraska.....	13	12	15,309	13,295	2,014	—	9	62	496
Kansas.....	30	27	37,863	29,445	8,418	—	28	241	1,807
Maryland.....	8	7	19,634	15,385	4,249	—	8	73	678
Virginia.....	4	3	4,485	3,410	1,075	—	3	34	230
West Virginia.....	6	5	3,266	2,494	772	—	6	33	338
Florida.....	32	25	29,849	21,456	8,308	85	21	133	1,397
Kentucky.....	7	5	1,913	1,094	819	—	2	11	65
Tennessee.....	5	5	6,963	640	6,323	—	4	29	300
Alabama.....	43	35	15,951	12,865	2,936	150	25	145	1,232
Mississippi.....	7	6	4,562	3,010	1,552	—	5	30	266
Arkansas.....	72	62	48,311	34,268	13,543	500	61	384	4,642
Louisiana.....	6	6	6,820	5,663	1,157	—	3	23	274
Oklahoma.....	41	33	63,312	50,271	12,216	825	32	279	2,787
Texas.....	60	55	69,394	54,529	13,665	1,200	52	377	4,179
Montana.....	6	4	9,301	8,620	681	—	4	22	155
Colorado.....	11	10	19,779	16,895	2,884	—	11	80	726
New Mexico.....	4	3	1,954	1,431	523	—	4	25	207
Arizona.....	4	4	7,550	6,780	770	—	4	29	233
Washington.....	11	10	91,194	86,668	4,526	—	6	50	522
Oregon.....	7	6	16,520	15,754	766	—	5	37	389
California.....	77	73	260,366	206,270	53,596	500	71	587	6,192
Other States.....	11	11	21,939	14,421	6,018	1,500	9	75	644

wicked and a new heaven and a new earth for the believers. While they recognize human government and affirm unswerving loyalty to the United States, the Assemblies of God claim that as followers of the Prince of Peace they are constrained to declare that they could not conscientiously participate in war and armed resistance which involves the actual destruction of human life.

ORGANIZATION

The polity of the denomination is a combination of the Congregational and Presbyterian systems. The local churches are Congregational in the conduct of their affairs. They act, however, under the advice and suggestions of elders or presbyters. There are State bodies called district councils, and there is a General Council, for consideration of affairs belonging to the church at large.

The general presbyters and an executive presbytery consisting of seven persons are elected for supervision of the field work. Annual licenses are given worthy candidates, and on approval these are ordained to the full ministry by any district council. Outgoing missionaries, whether ordained or not, must be indorsed by the missionary committee of the General Council.

WORK

Missionary work is engaged in directly by all churches in the home field, and many local assemblies support missionaries on the foreign field wholly, or in part.

Missionary funds go through the central missionary committee, but a considerable amount is sent by individuals and churches directly to missionaries whom they support or help to support. Attention has been paid to educational matters, and the Central Bible Institute has been erected in Springfield, Mo., as a General Council institution. There are also Bible training schools located in California, Ohio, and New Jersey. The organization has also the Gospel Publishing House in Springfield, Mo., where general headquarters are located.