

SCANDINAVIAN EVANGELICAL BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

The movement away from the state churches in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark has found expression in the United States in the formation of three bodies, as follows: The Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America, the Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America, and the Norwegian and Danish Evangelical Free Church Association of North America.

The bodies included in the group in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed below, with the principal statistics as reported for the two periods. The Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America was organized as the Swedish Evangelical Free Mission; and other slight changes in names will be noted between the last two censuses.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE SCANDINAVIAN EVANGELICAL BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	505	48,785	481	\$7,490,579	486	\$1,954,860	443	56,177
Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America.....	357	36,838	340	5,301,379	344	1,402,398	312	41,050
Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America.....	107	8,166	101	1,228,700	102	329,644	95	11,250
Norwegian and Danish Evangelical Free Church Association of North America.....	41	3,781	40	960,500	40	222,818	36	3,877
1916								
Total for the group	458	37,816	439	3,053,838	441	722,535	431	41,701
Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America.....	324	29,164	310	2,295,172	311	522,352	305	30,937
Swedish Evangelical Free Church.....	102	6,208	98	480,966	98	144,303	95	8,672
Norwegian—Danish Free Church.....	32	2,444	31	277,700	32	55,880	31	2,092
1906								
Total for the group	407	27,712	379	1,638,675			373	32,504
Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America.....	281	20,760	261	1,225,220			258	24,888
Swedish Evangelical Free Mission.....	126	6,952	118	413,455			115	7,616

SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION COVENANT OF AMERICA

STATISTICS

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

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION COVENANT OF AMERICA

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	357	166	191	46.5	53.5
Members	36,838	27,003	9,835	73.3	26.7
Average per church.....	103	163	51		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	15,312	10,909	4,403	71.2	28.8
Female.....	19,895	14,773	5,122	74.3	25.7
Sex not reported.....	1,631	1,321	310	81.0	19.0
Males per 100 females.....	77.0	73.8	86.0		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	221	113	108	51.1	48.9
13 years and over.....	31,681	23,915	7,766	75.5	24.5
Age not reported.....	4,936	2,975	1,961	60.3	39.7
Per cent under 13 years ³	0.7	0.5	1.4		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	357	171	186	47.9	52.1
Value—Churches reporting.....	340	162	178	47.6	52.4
Amount reported.....	\$5,301,379	\$4,188,496	\$1,112,883	79.0	21.0
Average per church.....	\$15,592	\$25,855	\$6,252		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	55	36	19		
Amount reported.....	\$282,845	\$256,590	\$26,255	90.7	9.3
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	252	116	136	46.0	54.0
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	213	111	102	52.1	47.9
Amount reported.....	\$1,253,670	\$856,995	\$396,675	68.4	31.6
Debt—Churches reporting.....	46	34	12		
Amount reported.....	\$156,009	\$141,994	\$14,015	91.0	9.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	151	72	79	47.7	52.3
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	344	163	181	47.4	52.6
Amount reported.....	\$1,402,398	\$1,079,207	\$323,191	77.0	23.0
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,020,249	\$768,489	\$251,760	75.3	24.7
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$291,191	\$224,160	\$67,031	77.0	23.0
Not classified.....	\$90,958	\$86,558	\$4,400	95.2	4.8
Average expenditure per church.....	\$4,077	\$6,621	\$1,786		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	312	157	155	50.3	49.7
Officers and teachers.....	4,091	2,772	1,319	67.8	32.2
Scholars.....	41,050	29,177	11,873	71.1	28.9

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.

In the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America only those who have confessed faith and have voluntarily applied for membership can become members, and only such persons are counted in the membership list. Children and other young people who have not confessed faith are not included.

The data given herewith for the year 1926 represent 357 active churches of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant, with 36,838 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 342 churches, and the classification by age was reported by 291 churches, including, however, only 17 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

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

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION COVENANT OF AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916	1906
Churches (local organizations)	357	324	281
Increase over preceding census:			
Number.....	33	43	
Per cent.....	10.2	15.3	
Members	36,838	29,164	20,760
Increase over preceding census:			
Number.....	7,674	8,404	
Per cent.....	26.3	40.5	
Average membership per church.....	103	90	74
Church edifices:			
Number.....	357	310	268
Value—Churches reporting.....	340	310	261
Amount reported.....	\$5,301,379	\$2,295,172	\$1,225,220
Average per church.....	\$15,592	\$7,404	\$4,694
Debt—Churches reporting.....	55	83	83
Amount reported.....	\$282,845	\$205,132	\$121,694
Parsonages:			
Value—Churches reporting.....	213	134	91
Amount reported.....	\$1,253,670	\$375,200	\$184,500
Debt—Churches reporting.....	46		
Amount reported.....	\$156,009		
Expenditures during year:			
Churches reporting.....	344	311	
Amount reported.....	\$1,402,398	\$522,352	
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,020,249	\$408,064	
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$291,191	\$75,801	
Not classified.....	\$90,958	\$38,487	
Average expenditure per church.....	\$4,077	\$1,680	
Sunday schools:			
Churches reporting.....	312	305	258
Officers and teachers.....	4,091	3,464	2,862
Scholars.....	41,050	30,937	24,888

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant 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 3 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 Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant, 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: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION COVENANT OF AMERICA

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	357	166	191	36,838	27,003	9,835	15,312	19,895	1,631	77.0
New England:										
New Hampshire.....	1	1	---	120	120	---	42	78	---	---
Massachusetts.....	5	5	---	1,370	1,370	---	557	813	---	68.5
Rhode Island.....	6	5	1	666	562	104	246	420	---	58.6
Connecticut.....	6	4	2	859	750	109	364	495	---	73.5
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	9	8	1	2,235	2,170	65	1,178	1,057	---	111.4
New Jersey.....	1	1	---	128	128	---	43	85	---	---
Pennsylvania.....	13	5	8	619	446	173	264	355	---	74.4
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	2	2	---	586	586	---	177	409	---	43.3
Indiana.....	4	3	1	173	137	36	70	103	---	68.0
Illinois.....	42	39	3	7,587	7,475	112	2,772	4,145	670	66.9
Michigan.....	31	15	16	2,064	1,599	465	759	1,077	228	70.5
Wisconsin.....	21	5	16	1,181	316	865	493	638	50	77.3
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	94	25	69	7,722	5,103	2,619	3,492	4,019	211	86.9
Iowa.....	24	8	16	2,060	1,024	1,036	916	1,144	---	80.1
Missouri.....	1	1	---	134	134	---	56	78	---	---
South Dakota.....	7	---	7	295	---	295	142	153	---	92.8
Nebraska.....	20	5	15	2,152	651	1,501	881	1,159	112	76.0
Kansas.....	24	4	20	1,890	600	1,220	744	971	175	76.6
East South Central:										
Alabama.....	1	---	1	30	---	30	16	14	---	---
Mountain:										
Montana.....	3	3	---	117	117	---	48	69	---	---
Idaho.....	2	2	---	45	45	---	25	20	---	---
Wyoming.....	1	1	---	23	23	---	8	15	---	---
Colorado.....	4	3	1	284	219	65	121	163	---	74.2
Pacific:										
Washington.....	14	9	5	1,653	1,434	219	732	921	---	79.5
Oregon.....	2	1	1	274	250	24	133	141	---	94.3
California.....	19	11	8	2,571	1,744	827	1,033	1,353	185	76.3

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

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION COVENANT OF AMERICA

[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.....	357	324	281	36,838	29,164	20,760	221	31,681	4,936	0.7
Massachusetts.....	5	1	-----	1,370	294	-----	-----	1,370	-----	-----
Rhode Island.....	6	-----	-----	666	-----	-----	-----	666	-----	-----
Connecticut.....	6	-----	-----	859	-----	-----	-----	695	164	-----
New York.....	9	6	4	2,235	1,679	894	4	2,231	-----	0.2
Pennsylvania.....	13	10	4	619	474	161	-----	552	67	-----
Indiana.....	4	5	5	173	216	179	-----	155	18	-----
Illinois.....	42	43	41	7,587	7,798	5,762	-----	6,399	1,188	-----
Michigan.....	31	29	33	2,064	2,040	1,974	-----	1,949	115	-----
Wisconsin.....	21	16	12	1,181	689	580	-----	746	435	-----
Minnesota.....	94	102	80	7,722	6,506	5,017	147	6,613	962	2.2
Iowa.....	24	25	25	2,060	2,235	1,492	6	1,696	358	0.4
South Dakota.....	7	10	13	295	368	473	-----	295	-----	-----
Nebraska.....	20	24	20	2,152	2,284	1,625	6	1,769	377	0.3
Kansas.....	24	18	18	1,890	1,328	1,073	55	1,555	280	3.4
Montana.....	3	5	4	117	193	116	-----	67	50	-----
Idaho.....	2	2	3	45	98	108	-----	45	-----	-----
Colorado.....	4	2	4	284	172	208	3	281	-----	1.1
Washington.....	14	6	3	1,653	774	269	-----	1,579	74	-----
California.....	19	13	6	2,571	1,594	339	-----	1,857	714	-----
Other States.....	9	7	6	1,295	422	490	-----	1,161	134	-----

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION COVENANT OF AMERICA

[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.....	357	357	340	\$5,301,379	55	\$282,845	213	\$1,253,670	46	\$156,009
Massachusetts.....	5	5	5	188,838	2	23,500	4	37,700	2	7,000
Rhode Island.....	6	6	6	79,500	1	4,500	3	24,000	1	3,000
Connecticut.....	6	5	5	187,000	2	62,000	3	63,000	1	14,000
New York.....	9	7	7	311,947	3	36,000	5	60,000	2	18,500
Pennsylvania.....	13	13	13	129,500	1	8,000	6	29,500	1	1,500
Indiana.....	4	4	4	55,500	-----	-----	-----	(¹)	-----	-----
Illinois.....	42	44	42	1,356,316	6	69,400	23	244,500	9	43,600
Michigan.....	31	32	31	323,330	4	6,575	20	80,200	4	11,000
Wisconsin.....	21	21	21	155,600	3	2,500	12	42,000	-----	-----
Minnesota.....	94	88	83	754,672	14	23,880	40	195,033	6	8,535
Iowa.....	24	25	23	328,100	4	13,250	19	101,000	2	1,800
South Dakota.....	7	7	7	37,500	-----	-----	4	19,000	2	1,900
Nebraska.....	20	22	20	230,500	2	2,450	19	82,500	1	265
Kansas.....	24	25	24	195,500	3	2,800	19	72,000	2	1,950
Montana.....	3	4	3	17,500	-----	-----	3	4,500	-----	-----
Colorado.....	4	4	4	31,210	1	2,500	3	19,810	2	4,459
Washington.....	14	13	12	274,983	3	2,690	7	42,000	3	6,300
California.....	19	20	19	411,033	5	18,800	13	74,327	4	12,000
Other States.....	11	12	11	232,850	1	4,000	10	162,600	4	20,200

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

**TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION COVENANT OF AMERICA**

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

STATES	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.....	357	344	\$1,402,398	\$1,020,249	\$291,191	\$90,958	312	4,091	41,050
Massachusetts.....	5	5	54,222	46,311	7,911	-----	5	122	1,184
Rhode Island.....	6	6	34,445	30,616	3,829	-----	5	51	263
Connecticut.....	6	6	32,114	26,953	5,161	-----	6	79	634
New York.....	9	9	75,076	23,441	3,046	48,589	9	176	1,804
Pennsylvania.....	13	13	24,672	21,017	3,364	291	10	85	501
Indiana.....	4	4	5,952	3,721	2,231	-----	3	28	192
Illinois.....	42	42	343,162	241,893	91,269	10,000	42	854	9,322
Michigan.....	31	30	137,631	119,004	18,113	514	27	307	2,506
Wisconsin.....	21	19	34,995	28,832	5,652	461	15	123	1,263
Minnesota.....	94	89	227,301	166,306	53,487	7,508	75	834	9,315
Iowa.....	24	24	75,167	55,421	14,478	5,268	19	224	2,326
South Dakota.....	7	7	10,566	7,885	2,681	-----	7	56	507
Nebraska.....	20	20	68,843	46,732	15,634	6,477	19	246	2,382
Kansas.....	24	22	50,218	36,043	13,125	1,050	22	238	2,015
Montana.....	3	3	4,602	4,340	262	-----	3	21	145
Colorado.....	4	3	15,792	15,063	729	-----	3	27	267
Washington.....	14	14	63,172	45,454	17,718	-----	14	197	2,298
California.....	19	17	92,317	67,035	25,282	-----	18	276	2,788
Other States.....	11	11	52,151	34,132	7,219	10,800	10	142	1,338

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONFERENCES, 1926: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION COVENANT OF AMERICA

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.....	357	36,838	340	\$5,301,379	55	\$282,845	344	\$1,402,398	312	41,050
California.....	19	2,571	19	411,033	5	18,800	17	92,317	18	2,788
Eastern Missionary.....	24	3,720	21	631,338	7	109,000	24	149,098	23	2,577
Illinois.....	49	7,869	49	1,433,016	7	70,900	49	353,875	48	9,695
Iowa.....	23	1,991	22	322,100	4	13,250	23	73,513	18	2,235
Kansas and Missouri.....	25	2,024	25	225,500	3	2,800	23	56,218	23	2,185
Lower Michigan.....	15	1,117	15	209,200	2	5,075	15	97,628	12	1,123
Middle East.....	20	2,893	20	412,947	3	29,000	20	100,798	17	2,515
Nebraska and Colorado.....	24	2,429	24	263,210	3	4,950	23	86,135	22	2,708
North Pacific Missionary.....	21	2,089	19	344,333	3	2,600	21	81,358	20	2,778
North Red River Valley.....	12	356	11	39,750	3	1,695	11	10,899	9	451
Northwest.....	97	8,318	87	826,822	12	22,885	91	241,336	77	9,875
Northwest Michigan.....	20	1,097	20	138,630	3	1,800	19	47,003	17	1,522
South Dakota.....	8	364	8	43,500	-----	-----	8	12,220	8	598

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The great number of immigrants from Sweden, who during the latter half of the nineteenth century arrived in the United States of America, had in their homeland been connected with the Lutheran State Church of Sweden. On arriving in this country they, as a rule, organized Swedish Lutheran churches in their respective communities. Later on these churches organized the Augustana Synod, which affiliated itself with the Lutheran General Council.

A considerable number of the immigrants, however, had in their homeland experienced a spiritual awakening during the great revivals that stirred the Swedish nation during the nineteenth century. As a direct result of these revivals, laymen began to preach the gospel, and a free church movement developed within the State Church of Sweden, a movement that was bitterly opposed by some of the clergy of the State Church; but, nevertheless, the free church movement gained strength, and mission societies and congregations were organized in various parts of Sweden. The Christians, who had thus been influenced by said revival movements, upon their arrival in America did not fully enjoy the spiritual atmosphere of the Swedish Lutheran churches in this country. For that reason they soon organized other churches that were more in harmony with the ideas prevalent in the free church movement in Sweden. In 1873 some of these churches organized the Swedish Lutheran Mission Synod, and in 1884 other churches of the same character organized the Swedish Lutheran Ansgarius Synod. These two organizations labored side by side for about 10 years. Efforts were made, however, to unite these groups, and in February, 1885, the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America was organized in Chicago for the purpose of uniting the churches of the last-named synods as well as some other independent churches that had sprung up in the meantime.

DOCTRINE

In doctrine, the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America is strictly evangelical. The Bible is accepted as the word of God and the only infallible guide in matters of faith, doctrine, and practice. The Lutheran conception of the teachings of the Bible is generally accepted, but full freedom is given to those holding other views in doctrinal matters. The Mission Covenant has not accepted any articles of faith as binding for the churches of the organization.

ORGANIZATION

In church government, the Mission Covenant is essentially congregational, the local church having full freedom to arrange its own affairs. However, departing from the congregational idea, the Covenant ordains its own ministers. The churches affiliated with the Covenant send delegates to the annual conference, at which matters of common interest are considered and decided upon. The churches are also united in district associations for the purpose of better taking care of the local interests in the respective districts. There are 13 such district associations, not including the district of Canada.

WORK

The purpose of the Mission Covenant of America is to promote the preaching of the gospel in the United States and in foreign countries, to build and support churches, to govern and support schools and seminaries, to educate and ordain ministers of the gospel, to license ministers and missionaries and assign them to

¹ This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. C. V. Bowman, Secretary of the Executive Board, Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America, Chicago, Ill., and approved by him in its present form.

duty, and to build and maintain hospitals and institutions for charitable and benevolent purposes.

Home mission work is carried out principally by the district associations of the Mission Covenant. Home missionaries and evangelists are sent out in the fields, and an immigrant pastor is supported who labors in New York City, principally among the immigrants arriving from the Scandinavian countries. A Sunday-school secretary is engaged to promote the interests of the Sunday school and the junior young people.

The educational work of the Mission Covenant is carried out by the North Park College and Theological Seminary located in Chicago, Ill., and the Minnehaha Academy located in Minneapolis, Minn. Each of these institutions has an annual enrollment of about 400 pupils.

The Mission Covenant owns and operates in Chicago a modern hospital having a capacity of 90 beds and also conducts a modern Old People's Home caring for 110 persons. Some district associations connected with the Covenant also own and operate charitable institutions. The total number of institutions owned and operated by the Covenant, or by the various district associations, is as follows:

Two schools, 2 homes for destitute children, 2 homes for sailors, 2 hospitals, and 6 homes for the aged.

The Mission Covenant is also engaged in missionary work among the Indians in southeastern Alaska and among the Eskimos in northwestern Alaska. Five missionaries are engaged in this work, with a few native coworkers. Foreign mission work is carried on in the Province of Hupeh in central China. According to the latest available statistics, those of 1925, the Mission Covenant had 7 main mission stations, and 45 out-stations in this field. Fifty American missionaries were engaged in the evangelical, medical, and educational work, and 184 native coworkers labored under the direction of the missionaries. Approximately \$100,000 per year is appropriated for the foreign work of the Mission Covenant.

The Mission Covenant of America is also engaged in the publishing of religious literature. Thus, the Covenant Weekly is published once a week in the Swedish language. The Covenant Companion, a young people's magazine, is published monthly in the English language. The Sunday School Friend is published weekly in the English language. Sunday-school books, and other books of a religious nature, are also published. The publishing and distributing of religious literature is carried on through the Covenant Book Concern, which is owned and operated by the Mission Covenant, its headquarters being in Chicago, Ill.