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The
**PRESBYTERIAN
SURVEY**

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

MAY, 1924



The Famous Alamo, one of the show places of San Antonio, Texas



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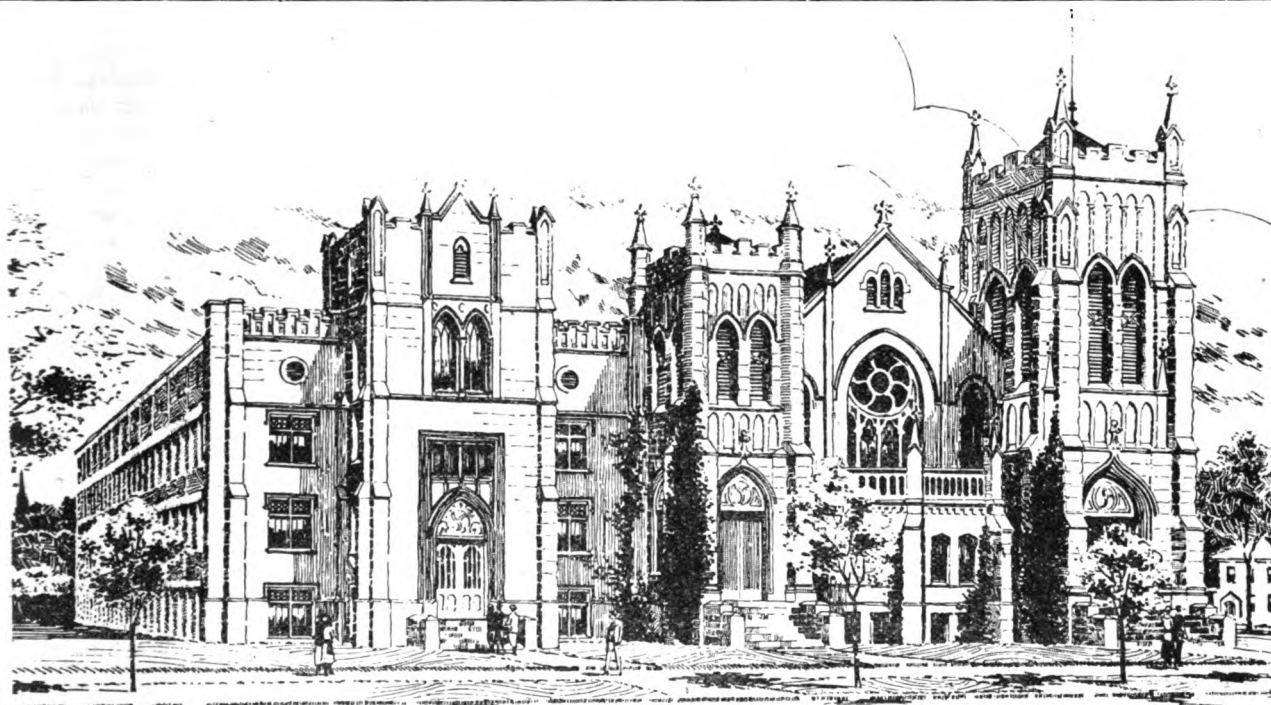


The PRESBYTERIAN SURVEY

Vol. XIV

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No.



First Church, San Antonio, Texas, where the General Assembly will convene on May 15.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOTES

R. E. MAGILL

The annual meeting of our General Assembly will convene on May 15, 1924, in the First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, Texas. The Assembly has not met in Texas since 1904 and the session this year promises to be one of unusual interest. San Antonio is one of the most beautiful cities of the Lone Star State and a place that abounds in historic interest.

The Alamo with its rich associations with the early days of the Southwest will be a point of great interest for visitors.

The First Church which is to be the host of the Assembly is one of the oldest and yet one of the most vigorous of our organizations in Texas.

Dr. P. B. Hill, the pastor, and his live membership are making careful preparations to give the Assembly a royal welcome.

A number of Ad Interim Committees are to make reports which will afford opportunity for "Much Palaver" but we trust wise conclusions will be reached.

A number of amendments to the Book of Church Order will be submitted which if adopted will clarify this very much muddled document. The suggestion to churches as to a method by which they may become

legally incorporated bodies is not to be incorporated as an amendment to the Book of Church order and it is hoped no time will be wasted in discussing academic matters.

A report on a Bureau of Vacancy and Supply will be submitted and it is greatly to be desired that a plan may be worked out which will assure every church a pastor and every pastor a church. At present we have over 400 churches without pastoral oversight and about 100 ministers who do not seem to have regular work.

The committee to study conditions in our border Synods will have an interesting report and it is to be hoped that plans will be suggested which will avoid duplication of effort in this day when sixty-five per cent of America's population is still out of the evangelical churches.

The report on the problems of the country church will discuss a vital matter and should arouse us to the fact that our small town and city churches cannot grow unless we adopt intelligent and aggressive plans to reach the people in the open country. At present fifty to seventy-five per cent of the country churches are of the Baptist and Methodist persuasion with probably

ten per cent distributed among communions other than Presbyterian. With the country communities served by churches of other denominations it is not to be expected that the countryside residents will join Presbyterian churches when they move from the country to towns and cities as they are now doing in such great numbers.

The reports of the Executive Committees will show

a year of great activity and encouraging progress but will reveal that we have but touched the border of our great obligation and opportunity.

It is urged that the church shall unite in earnest prayer that the Assembly may be guided and blessed in its deliberations.

RELIGIOUS CENSUS ENCOURAGING

An interesting summary of the annual census of Religions, compiled by the *Religious Herald* of New York, has just been released for publication. The total membership represented by all the religious bodies in the United States, according to this census, is 45,457,366, the evangelical groups showing a gain of 493,161. Those who fear the result of the modernist movement throughout the country will be relieved to note in the report a decrease of sixteen Unitarian ministers and eight churches, and of forty-five Universalist ministers and 199 churches.

Of the Evangelical denominations, the Methodists, of

which there are fifteen bodies, continue to lead in number of communicants. The Baptists, of which there are fourteen bodies, come a close second. During the last five years the Southern Baptist Convention has added more than 700,000 to its membership. The Presbyterian group, of which there are nine bodies, ranks fourth, and shows a gain of 61,290 members during the year 1923.

The Roman Catholic Church, alone, has been for years the largest religious body in the United States. This summary shows its membership to be 15,750,260, with an increase of 138,616 during 1923.

Summary of Denominational Gains and Losses

	Com- municants	Gain in Com- municants		Com- municants	Gain in Com- municants
Adventists (5 bodies) -----	139,348	71	Friends (4 bodies) -----	116,110	d1,973
Assemblies of God -----	70,090	10,000	Jewish Congregations (c) -----	357,135	-----
Baptists (14 bodies) (a) -----	8,237,021	192,520	Latter-Day Saints (2 bodies) -----	607,815	20,245
Brethren (Dunkards) (4 bodies) --	142,695	210	Lutherans (18 bodies) -----	2,465,841	22,825
Brethren Plymouth (6 bodies) (c)	13,244	-----	Scandinavian Evangelical (3 bodies)	4,152	5,350
Brethren (River) (3 bodies) -----	5,962	-----	Mennonites (12 bodies) -----	82,639	d2,393
Buddhist Japanese Temples (c) ---	5,639	-----	Methodists (15 bodies) -----	8,622,836	87,683
Catholic Apostolic (2 bodies) (c) --	2,768	-----	Moravian (2 bodies) -----	25,998	744
Catholics Eastern Orthodox (9 bodies) -----	647,450	21,506	Nonsectarian Bible Faith Churches	4,850	1,661
Catholics Western (3 bodies) (e) --	15,750,260	138,616	Pentecostal Churches (3 bodies) --	16,279	-----
Christadelphians -----	3,940	50	Presbyterians (9 bodies) -----	2,462,557	61,290
Christian Church -----	103,091	2,657	Protestant Episcopal (2 bodies) ---	1,140,076	10,463
Christian Union -----	17,200	300	Reformed (3 bodies) -----	532,700	10,539
Church of Christ Scientist -----	-----	-----	Salvation Army -----	58,558	6,267
Church of God and Saints of Christ (Colored) (c) -----	3,311	-----	American Rescue Workers -----	4,526	1,000
Churches of God General Assembly --	21,076	-----	Schwenkfelders -----	1,395	18
Church of Living God (Colored) (3 bodies) -----	3,500	500	Social Brethren -----	1,000	50
Church of New Jerusalem (2 bodies)	7,073	7	Society for Ethical Culture -----	3,000	d210
Church of the Nazarene -----	50,721	2,779	Spiritualists -----	56,640	6,640
Communitistic Societies (2 bodies) --	1,784	-----	Temple Society (c) -----	260	-----
Congregational Churches -----	867,633	9,787	Unitarians -----	771,110	-----
Disciples of Christ (2 bodies) -----	1,621,203	68,490	United Brethren (2 bodies) -----	394,563	8,702
Evangelical Church (lately--2 bodies) -----	200,962	d16,227	Universalists -----	g59,650	-----
Evangelistic Associations (15 bod- ies) (c) -----	13,933	-----	Independent Congregations -----	48,673	-----
Evangelical Protestant (c) -----	17,962	-----	Grand Total in 1923 -----	45,457,366	680,015
Evangelical Synod -----	300,449	b9,667	Grand Total in 1922 -----	44,777,351	797,565
Free Christian Zion (Colored) (c) --	6,225	-----			

(a) Estimated increase for 1923, based on average gain of previous three years. (b) Estimated increase for 1923. (c) Census of 1916. (d) Decrease. (e) Estimated communicants. (f) Canvass of members still incomplete. (g) Members and adherents, 92,365. (h) Returns new canvass incomplete.

SURVEY WEEK

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The Survey

Shows you what your money is doing
toward the evangelization of the world