

5.—CHARGES AND CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Total number of self-sustaining charges in the United Church of Canada on June 10, 1925.....	2,791
Total number of aid-receiving charges and missions in the United Church of Canada on June 10, 1925.....	1,494
Total number of congregations in the United Church of Canada on June 10, 1925.....	8,691

III.—CHURCH UNION VOTE IN CONGREGATIONS IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

In the self-sustaining charges slightly over twenty-seven per cent. voted non-concurrence. In the aid-receiving charges less than ten per cent. voted non-concurrence.

Of the whole Presbyterian Church in Canada seventeen and one-third per cent. of the congregations voted non-concurrence.

There were 1,412 congregations in self-sustaining charges which remained in union, as against 534 congregations in self-sustaining charges which voted to withdraw as the Presbyterian Church in Canada entered the United Church of Canada. It is interesting also to note that only slightly over thirty per cent. of the whole membership of the Presbyterian Church in Canada voted against entering the United Church, while it is more interesting still to contemplate the vast numbers of those opposing union who accepted the verdict of their Church and loyally followed her into the United Church of Canada.

The total numerical strength of the United Church of Canada is impressive. Into the Church have entered 4,797 congregations of the Methodist Church, 166 congregations of the Congregational Churches, and 3,728 congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, bringing the total on the 10th of June, 1925, to 8,691, as compared with 784 congregations which remained out. As a plain matter of fact a union of three great denominations in Canada has been effected with a loss of less than eight and one-half per cent. of the total congregations, and with a loss of about twelve per cent. of the self-sustaining charges.

Still more striking has been the attitude of the overseas foreign missions fields of the three Churches. Of the 655 missionaries of the uniting Churches on the foreign field on June 10, 1925, there are but seventeen (including men, wives and single women) who are no longer on the staff of the United Church of Canada. In addition to these there are six non-concurring missionaries with their wives, and two single women, who are continuing their work at present under the United Church of Canada.

At the same time the loss to the United Church of Canada of 784 congregations is in every way regrettable. Doubtless other congregations of non-concurrents have been formed, as a corresponding number of congregations have been formed by Unionist minorities, and time alone will reveal their ultimate strength. Nevertheless the United Church of Canada has started on its way with a great strength, a great heritage, a great vision and a great task.

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