

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Donna L. Barrett

This year's new capability to offer credential exams online is receiving a warm welcome from our districts. Also new, the Annual Church Ministries Report (ACMR) form, reduced from 66 questions to 22 this year, has met with welcomed enthusiasm by churches and yet continues to allow us to compile the necessary data for the following statistics. This year, we saw a slight increase in the number of chartered churches of 0.1 percent, net. Membership increased by 0.2 percent, Holy Spirit baptisms increased by 3.3 percent, and worship service attendance increased by 6,938 or 0.3 percent. This year we saw a decline in a few areas including Sunday night attendance and water baptisms.

It is my privilege to share with you the following statistics of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (AG), for the United States, for calendar year 2018. Unless specified otherwise, net change refers to 2018 data compared to 2017.

CHURCHES

Affiliation	2015	2016	2017	2018
General Council Affiliated	7,046	7,140	7,172	7,180
District Council Affiliated	4,893	4,735	4,582	4,485
Parent Affiliated	958	1,148	1,250	1,352
TOTALS	12,897	13,023	13,004	13,017
Net change from preceding year	48	126	-19	13
Percentage change	0.4	1.0	-0.1	0.1

Since the 2017 report, 327 churches were newly chartered. Due to merges, withdrawals, and other closings, 314 were removed, for a net gain of 13 assemblies. New charters were up, and closings were down. (See the New Church Charters and Closes chart at the end of my report for historical data.)

Of churches with General Council affiliated status, 16 were newly chartered, 61 closed, 85 changed to District Council affiliated, and 20 changed to Parent Affiliated Church (PAC) status. Changes to General Council affiliated status include 135 District Council affiliated churches and 23 PACs, for a net gain of 8 General Council affiliated churches. District Council affiliated churches newly chartered total 132, closed total 162, and 43 changed to PACs. Twenty-six PACs changed to District Council affiliated status, and the remainder changed affiliation as stated. This resulted in a net loss of 97 District Council affiliated churches. Newly chartered PACs total 179, closed total 91, and the rest changed affiliation as stated, for a net gain of 102 PACs. (See the Churches by Affiliation and District/Network table at the end of my report for a breakdown of churches by affiliation.)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership increased (0.2 percent) to 1,856,653. (Note: In recent years, the U.S. population has grown less than 1 percent per year.) Population data are available at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts>.

Membership	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Membership	1,817,450	1,818,941	1,853,273	1,856,653
Change from preceding year	5,324	1,491	34,332	3,380
Percentage change	0.3	0.1	1.9	0.2
Average church membership	141	140	143	143

VITAL STATISTICS*

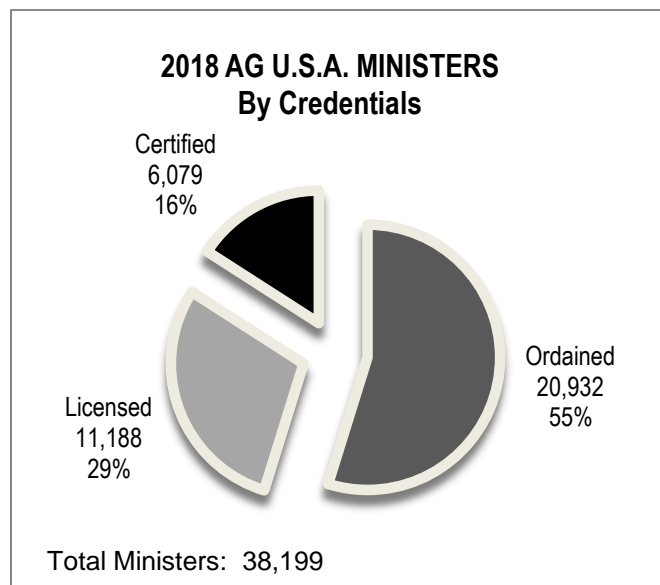
	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change 2017-2018	
					#	%
Adherents	3,192,112	3,240,258	3,214,998	3,233,385	18,387	0.6
Conversions	479,960	509,219	500,181	485,695	-14,486	-2.9
Holy Spirit baptisms	79,473	92,425	86,528	89,390	2,862	3.3
Major worship service attendance	1,959,434	2,004,897	2,020,636	2,027,574	6,938	0.3
Membership	1,817,450	1,818,941	1,853,273	1,856,653	3,380	0.2
Sunday P.M. attendance	281,622	254,010	246,251	234,104	-12,147	-4.9
Water baptisms	135,410	139,306	138,300	135,781	-2,519	-1.8

*May not include conversions and baptisms occurring outside of local church ministries.

MINISTERS

Total credentialed ministers increased by 197. The one-year net gain comprised a net gain of 199 ordained, a net loss of 8 licensed, and net gain of 6 certified ministers.

Ministers	2015	2016	2017	2018
Ordained	19,989	20,415	20,733	20,932
Licensed	11,092	11,149	11,196	11,188
Certified	5,987	6,055	6,073	6,079
TOTALS	37,068	37,619	38,002	38,199
Change from preceding year	184	551	383	197
Percentage change	0.5	1.5	1.0	0.5

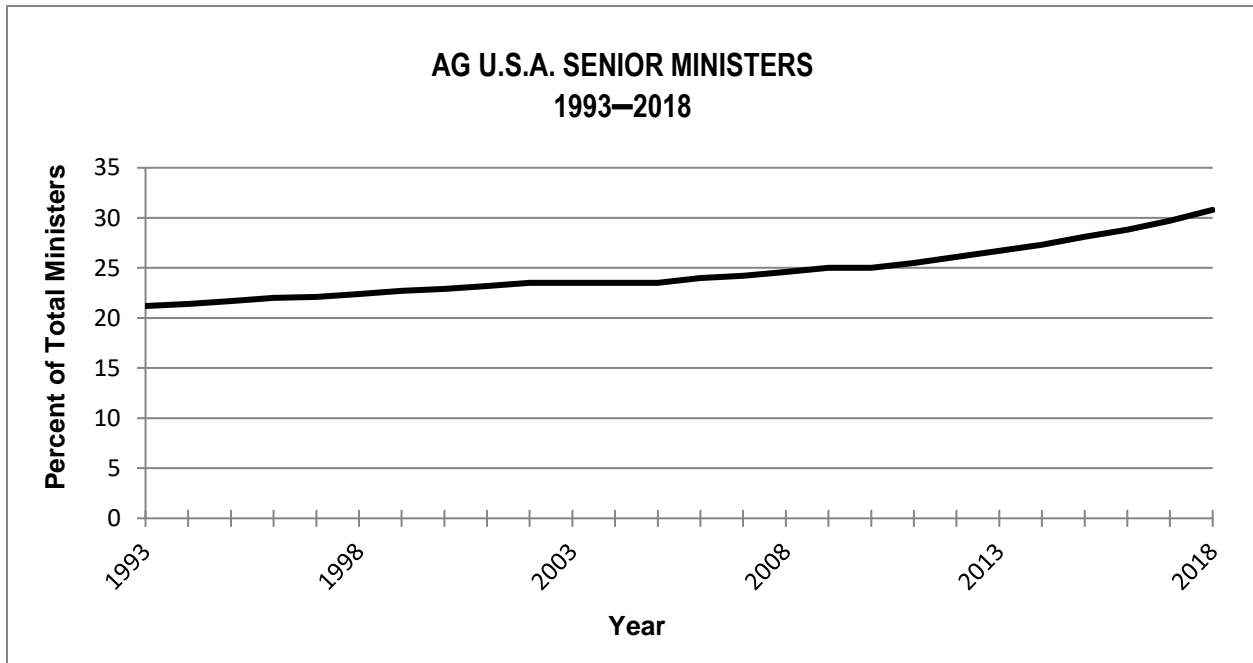


SUSPENDED AND UNDER RESTORATION

Of the 49 ministers under discipline and restoration in 2018, 25 were ordained, 15 licensed, and 9 were certified, compared to 48 ministers previously.

MINISTERS AGE 65 AND OLDER

Records indicate 11,758 ministers, or 30.8 percent of the total, were 65 years of age or older. Of those, 8,278 were ordained, 2,455 were licensed, and 1,025 were certified.

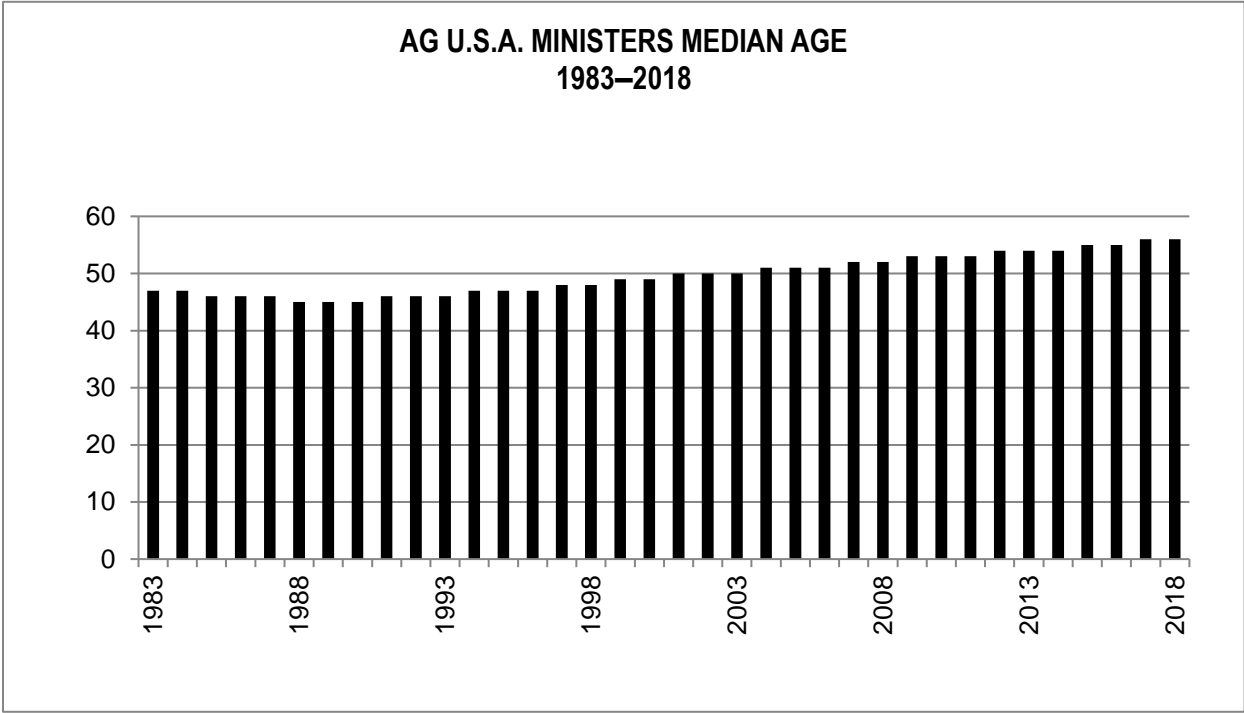


MINISTERS UNDER AGE 40

The number of ministers under 40 years of age decreased to 7,719, a net loss of 197.

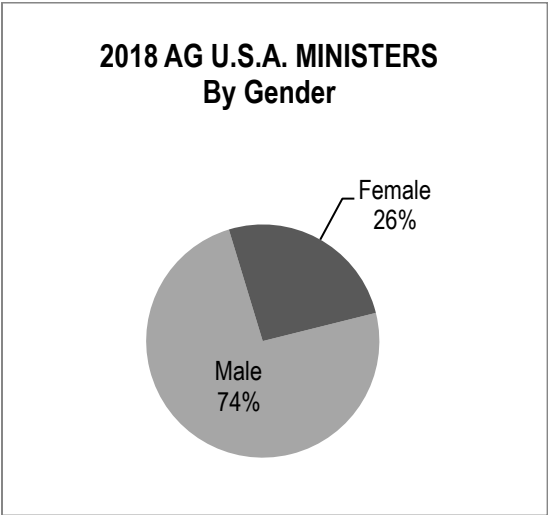
MINISTERS' MEDIAN AGES

The average age of all ministers is 55, and the median age is 56 years. Median ages by credentials are 61 for ordained, 49 for licensed, and 47 for certified ministers. The youngest and oldest ministers were 18 and 105, respectively, as of December 31, 2018.



FEMALE MINISTERS

The number of female ministers totaled 9,857 in 2018 (26 percent of total ministers), a net gain of 347. (Males totaled 28,342, a net loss of 150.)



Of these women, there were 2,928 church staff members, 589 lead pastors, 730 World missionaries, 166 evangelists, 167 U.S. missionaries, 154 chaplains, 29 Assemblies of God college teachers, 43 sectional presbyters, 16 district executive presbyters, 3 district officials, and 1 national Executive Leadership Team member, with the remainder serving in various capacities, or in retirement or disability.

FLOWER PENTECOSTAL HERITAGE CENTER

The Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center (FPHC) is the premier historical research center for the Assemblies of God and the broader Pentecostal Movement. The FPHC supports the mission of the church by preserving and making accessible the historical materials and stories that help inform our Pentecostal identity.

The FPHC builds bridges—not just across time, but also across the national, ethnic, and denominational divides. It is significant that the FPHC has earned the trust of Pentecostal leaders inside and outside the Assemblies of God Fellowship. During the last year (June 2018–May 2019), numerous collections of Pentecostal treasures were deposited at the FPHC. A few of the larger collections are described below:

- The personal papers of Steve Strang and the archives of Charisma Media
- The personal papers of AG leader Hardy Steinberg and AG educator Opal Reddin
- A collection of 1,500 pounds of historic Norwegian language Pentecostal publications

In the last year, the FPHC expanded its collection by over 5 percent. The total number of catalog records exceeds 128,000, including materials in 145 languages. Significantly, about 10 percent of acquisitions each year are in non-English languages. The FPHC has also digitized over 761,000 pages of historic publications. The FPHC publishes *Assemblies of God Heritage*, the only Pentecostal history magazine of its kind, which is sent to AG ministers in addition to subscribers.

In 2019, the FPHC unveiled its updated website, featuring a fresh new look, easier navigation, and additional content. A new audiovisual archive, to be added to the website later this year, will make it easy to view and share historic photographs, *Revivaltime* programs, and other audiovisual footage.

Ruthie Oberg, who began serving last year as an events speaker for the FPHC, has spoken at numerous national, district/network, and local church events. She is an engaging speaker and can preach and teach about our Pentecostal heritage and identity at churches or district/network events. Contact the FPHC to schedule Ruthie to speak at your church or district/network event.

The FPHC's extensive collections, research website www.iFPHC.org, and helpful staff make the center an essential resource for researchers, church leaders, and people in the pew.

Contact the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center for historical research needs or to donate materials.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Having been in the Office of the General Secretary just 14 months, I would like to express my appreciation to James T. Bradford for his efforts to train, mentor, and pass the baton smoothly. What an outstanding leader and a gentleman. Special thanks to direct reports who include Esther Wood, executive administrative assistant; Esther Bevis, Secretariat manager; Sherri Doty, Statistics supervisor; Debbie Sherman, Projects and Events coordinator; and Darrin Rodgers, Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center director. Teams of wonderful employees work under their leadership. May the Lord help us continue to grow in all ways in this coming year.

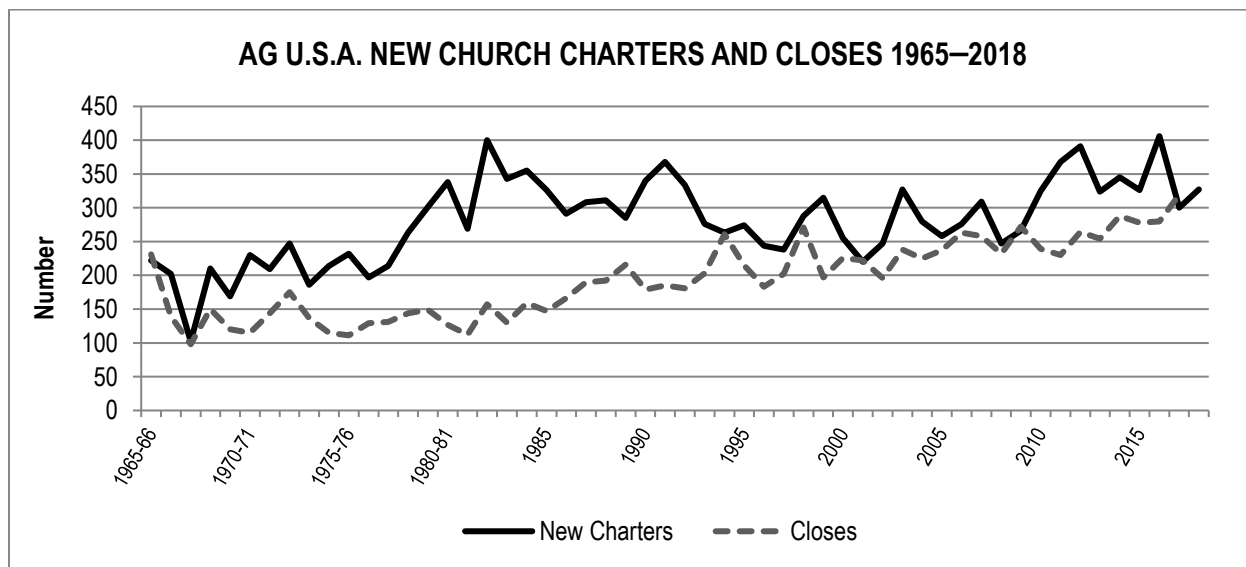
Sincerely in Christ,
Donna L. Barrett

For minister, district/network, church, or statistical information, visit us at
<https://ag.org/About/Leadership-Team/General-Secretary>

**AG U.S.A. NEW CHURCH CHARTERS AND CLOSES
1965–2018**

<u>Year¹</u>	<u>New Church Charters²</u>	<u>Closes²</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
1965–66	222	231	8,443	-9
1966–67	202	139	8,506	63
1967–68	102	98	8,510	4
1968–69	210	150	8,570	60
1969–70	169	120	8,619	49
1970–71	230	115	8,734	115
1971–72	209	144	8,799	65
1972–73	247	175	8,871	72
1973–74	186	137	8,920	49
1974–75	214	115	9,019	99
1975–76	232	111	9,140	121
1976–77	197	129	9,208	68
1977–78	214	131	9,291	83
1978–79	263	144	9,410	119
1979–80	301	149	9,562	152
1980–81	338	127	9,773	211
1981	269	112	9,930	157
1982	400	157	10,173	243
1983	343	130	10,386	213
1984	355	159	10,582	196
1985	326	147	10,761	179
1986	291	166	10,886	125
1987	308	190	11,004	118
1988	311	192	11,123	119
1989	285	216	11,192	69
1990	340	179	11,353	161
1991	368	185	11,536	183
1992	334	181	11,689	153
1993	276	203	11,762	73
1994	263	261	11,764	2
1995	274	215	11,823	59
1996	244	183	11,884	61
1997	238	202	11,920	36
1998	288	271	11,937	17
1999	315	197	12,055	118
2000	255	226	12,084	29

AG U.S.A. NEW CHURCH CHARTERS AND CLOSES				
1965–2018 (Continued)				
<u>Year</u> ¹	<u>New Church Charters</u> ²	<u>Closes</u> ²	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
2001	220	222	12,082	-2
2002	247	196	12,133	51
2003	327	238	12,222	89
2004	280	225	12,277	55
2005	258	237	12,298	21
2006	276	263	12,311	13
2007	309	258	12,362	51
2008	247	232	12,377	15
2009	266	272	12,371	-6
2010	325	239	12,457	86
2011	368	230	12,595	138
2012	391	264	12,722	127
2013	324	254	12,792	70
2014	345	288	12,849	57
2015	326	278	12,897	48
2016	406	280	13,023	126
2017	300	319	13,004	-19
2018	327	314	13,017	13



¹Reporting periods have varied through the years. As of December 1981, reports are based on the calendar year ending December 31.

²May include occasional churches chartered in error, closed, and subsequently chartered again.

AG U.S.A. CHURCHES BY AFFILIATION AND DISTRICT/NETWORK, 2018

District/Network Name & Number		GCA ¹	DCA ²	PAC ³	2018 Totals	2017 Totals	2017- 2018 Change
Alabama	(01)	168	155	8	331	328	3
Alaska	(51)	25	43	3	71	73	-2
Appalachian	(02)	66	35	1	102	104	-2
Arizona	(03)	103	111	10	224	221	3
Arkansas	(04)	231	143	33	407	404	3
Brazilian	(59)	1	64	0	65	64	1
Central District/Distrito Centro	(71)	31	91	1	123	129	-6
Central Pacific	(68)	90	54	8	152	153	-1
Florida Multicultural	(56)	99	78	1	178	176	2
Georgia	(06)	133	63	16	212	207	5
German	(60)	4	26	4	34	32	2
Hawaii	(53)	40	18	50	108	103	5
Illinois	(07)	155	103	27	285	282	3
Indiana	(08)	165	53	18	236	233	3
Iowa	(39)	72	44	5	121	122	-1
Kansas	(09)	108	28	8	144	143	1
Kentucky	(10)	108	33	4	145	146	-1
Korean	(57)	20	80	3	103	117	-14
Louisiana	(11)	99	97	10	206	210	-4
Michigan	(12)	142	104	5	251	252	-1
Midwest Latin American	(73)	19	54	7	80	81	-1
Minnesota	(13)	133	80	34	247	250	-3
Mississippi	(14)	83	65	5	153	154	-1
Montana	(15)	44	35	2	81	80	1
National Slavic	(62)	32	28	1	61	55	6
Nebraska	(16)	54	26	6	86	87	-1
New Jersey	(18)	162	27	58	247	238	9
New Mexico	(19)	59	27	10	96	94	2
New York	(20)	204	73	49	326	331	-5
North Carolina	(21)	121	133	26	280	293	-13
North Dakota	(22)	31	30	3	64	64	0
North Texas	(38)	351	149	132	632	612	20
Northern California-Nevada	(23)	259	131	51	441	438	3
Northern Missouri	(45)	61	23	4	88	89	-1
Northern New England	(17)	69	28	5	102	100	2
Northwest	(24)	208	44	97	349	340	9
Northwest Hispanic	(75)	30	28	1	59	56	3
Ohio	(25)	185	40	54	279	277	2
Oklahoma	(26)	278	181	18	477	483	-6
Oregon	(27)	117	44	29	190	189	1
Peninsular Florida	(32)	261	50	32	343	366	-23

AG U.S.A. CHURCHES BY AFFILIATION AND DISTRICT/NETWORK, 2018 (Continued)

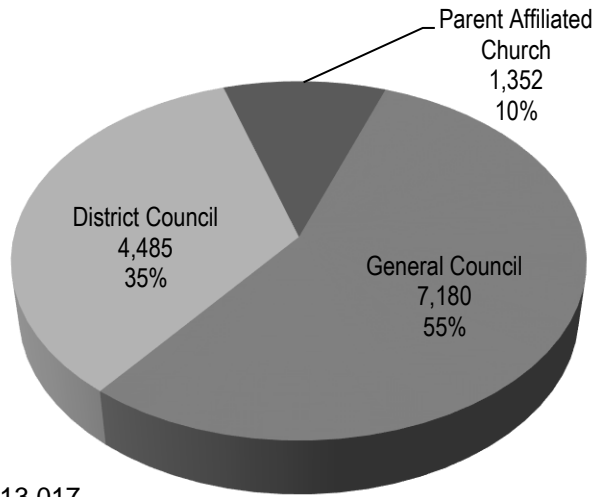
District/Network Name & Number		GCA ¹	DCA ²	PAC ³	2018 Totals	2017 Totals	2017– 2018 Change
Pennsylvania-Delaware	(05)	279	60	66	405	430	-25
Potomac	(28)	210	91	51	352	342	10
Puerto Rico	(55)	98	97	1	196	196	0
Rocky Mountain	(29)	99	36	32	167	171	-4
Samoan	(52)	25	38	5	68	62	6
Second Korean	(61)	9	29	0	38	38	0
South Carolina	(30)	44	34	10	88	89	-1
South Central Hispanic	(54)	46	62	3	111	111	0
South Dakota	(31)	21	23	4	48	45	3
South Texas	(33)	208	43	29	280	283	-3
Southern California	(34)	235	108	131	474	460	14
Southern Idaho	(35)	31	28	4	63	64	-1
Southern Latin	(74)	17	42	7	66	62	4
Southern Missouri	(36)	230	97	33	360	355	5
Southern New England	(44)	121	47	16	184	186	-2
Southern Pacific	(70)	93	217	31	341	334	7
Southwest	(67)	29	22	1	52	57	-5
Spanish Eastern	(69)	162	312	18	492	486	6
Tennessee	(37)	161	29	28	218	221	-3
Texas Gulf Hispanic	(64)	42	90	4	136	136	0
Texas Louisiana Hispanic	(66)	51	64	9	124	123	1
West Florida	(40)	108	51	0	159	162	-3
West Texas	(41)	45	46	12	103	105	-2
West Texas and Plains	(65)	41	43	1	85	84	1
Wisconsin-Northern Michigan	(42)	132	40	17	189	187	2
Wyoming	(43)	22	17	0	39	39	0
Area Name							
Great Lakes		821	368	109	1,298	1,294	4
Gulf		804	431	109	1,344	1,344	0
Language—East Spanish		395	583	34	1,012	1,001	11
Language—Other		91	265	13	369	368	1
Language—West Spanish		453	671	59	1,183	1,183	0
North Central		504	266	73	843	844	-1
Northeast		1,045	326	245	1,616	1,627	-11
Northwest		447	211	135	793	785	8
South Central		1,049	474	209	1,732	1,720	12
Southeast		835	486	92	1,413	1,445	-32
Southwest		736	404	274	1,414	1,393	21
TOTALS		7,180	4,485	1,352	13,017	13,004	13

¹General Council Affiliated Church.

²District Council Affiliated Church.

³Parent Affiliated Church.

**2018 AG U.S.A. CHURCHES
By Affiliation**



Total Churches: 13,017