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## UNIFORMITY OF LITURGY FOR OUR ENGLISH CHURCHES.

The deplorable fact that no uniformity of liturgy for our English services exists in our Synod no one who has given the matter any consideration will deny. Since our Synod has not supplied a satisfactory liturgy for our English services, each congregation with its pastor, in introducing English services, is forced to cast about for some suitable order of service. The consequence is, that most congregations have made a liturgy to meet the requirements of their own good, or bad, liturgical taste. The outcome usually has been an order of service that is as cold and bare, and devoid of churchliness, as if it had been prescribed by unfeeling, iconoclastic Rationalism itself.

Of course, every congregation has the privilege so to do. The order of service is an adiaphoron, and according to the *Formula of Concord* "we believe, teach, and confess that the Church of God of every place and every time has, according to its circumstances, the authority, power, and right (in matters truly adiaphora) to change, to diminish, and to increase them without thoughtlessness and offense, in an orderly and becoming way."<sup>1</sup>) Neither should we condemn such congregations as heterodox that have more or less ceremonies than seems good to us. "We believe, teach, and confess also that no Church should condemn another because one has less or more external ceremonies not commanded by God than the other,

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1) *Formula of Concord II*, ch. X, § 9.

## STATUS OF THE ENGLISH WORK OF THE GERMAN MISSOURI SYNOD.

In the July issue of 1909 we attempted for the first time to estimate the size and extent of the Missouri Synod's English work. The difficulties attending the preparation of the estimate at that time still exist. The returns made by the pastors reporting for the *Year-Book* for 1909 are incomplete, and the terms in which the nature of the English work performed in certain places is described carry some latitude of meaning. Accordingly, the totals in the tables following are subject to question. But the entire estimate proceeds on just as conservative lines as that of the previous year. The system of groups adopted for last year's estimate, also the nomenclature of the various divisions, has been followed in the present estimate. Division 4 in Group B, Division 15 in Group C, and Division 23 in Group D have been dropped, partly because there was no entry for them, and partly because they could be conveniently combined with other divisions with which they were nearly identical. It is necessary to state that the Colored Missions which are reported in the *Year-Book* are not included in this estimate, because they are not carried on by the German Missouri Synod exclusively, nor do they affect the English movement in the German body, hence could not be used as evidence to show a tendency toward, or away from, the use of English in our German congregations.—If any of our readers should discover mistakes in the tables submitted, we shall be glad to be told, and make the necessary corrections.

At the close of 1909, English preaching was reported within the bounds of the German Missouri Synod from 444 places, as follows:—

Western District .....	62	(plus 7)
Central District .....	56	(plus 4)
Minnesota and Dakota District .....	36	(plus 7)
Eastern District .....	31	(plus 4)
Michigan District .....	30	(plus 2)
Iowa District .....	27	(plus 9)
Kansas District .....	27	(plus 4)

Atlantic District .....	21 (plus 3)
Wisconsin District .....	21 (plus 4)
Northern Illinois District .....	20 (plus 8)
Central Illinois District .....	19 (minus 5)
Nebraska District .....	17 (plus 5)
Texas District .....	16 (plus 5)
Oregon and Washington District .....	14 (plus 6)
Southern Illinois District .....	14 (minus 1)
Southern District .....	11 (plus 1)
South Dakota District .....	9 (plus 2)
Canada District .....	8 (minus 1)
California and Nevada District .....	5 (plus 1)

*Total*.....444 (plus 65)

Dividing these places into groups like last year, we obtain the following results:—

#### GROUP A.

1. Entirely English congregations and missions.....	35 (minus 2)
2. Almost entirely English congregations.....	3 (unchanged)
3. Congregations in which English predominates.....	6 (plus 1)

*Total*..... 44 (minus 1)

#### GROUP B.

4. German-English congregations (also English-German)	41 (plus 17)
5. German and English congregations.....	5 (unchanged)
6. Congregations in which English and German preaching alternates .....	5 (minus 3)
7. Congregations in which there is English preaching every Sunday .....	23 (minus 3)

*Total*..... 74 (plus 9)

#### GROUP C.

8. Congregations which have established regular English services ("regelmaessig") .....	87 (plus 4)
9. Congregations which conduct also English services ("auch englisch") .....	40 (plus 18)
10. Congregations which have three English services a month .....	2 (plus 1)
11. Congregations which have English service every other week .....	27 (plus 18)
12. Congregations which have English preaching twice a month .....	33 (unchanged)
13. Congregations which have English preaching every third Sunday (also once in three weeks).....	5 (plus 1)
14. Congregations which have English preaching every four weeks .....	7 (plus 6)
15. Congregations which have English services once a month .....	108 (plus 11)

*Total*.....309 (plus 50)

## GROUP D.

16. Congregations which have one English service in six weeks .....	2 (plus 1)
17. Congregations which have English services once every other month .....	1 (unchanged)
18. Congregations which have English preaching three times a month during summer.....	1 (unchanged)
19. Congregations which have English services frequently ("oefters") .....	2 (plus 1)
20. Congregations which have English preaching occasionally ("zuweilen" and "gelegentlich") .....	10 (plus 3)
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<i>Total</i> .....	17 (plus 5)

Group A, Division 1, embraces thirteen organized congregations, as follows: Los Angeles, Cal.; Rust, Mich.; Wawaka, Ind.; Creston, Nebr.; Chicago, Ill. (Rev. Schuessler's and Bethany); Portland, Oreg.; Kennewick, Wash.; Henderson Tp., Pa.; New Orleans, La. (Rev. Kuss's); Dallas, Tex.; Racine, Wis.; Milwaukee, Wis. The remainder in this division are missions. The membership at the 35 places in this division totals 4068 souls and 2426 communicant members.

Division 2 in this group embraces three congregations (Arcadia, Ind.; New Orleans, La.—Rev. Wambsganss's; Hannibal, Mo.), with a membership of 1365 souls and 799 communicants.

In Division 3 we have Zanesville, Lancaster, Logan, O.; Richmond, Va.; New Orleans, La. (Rev. Von der Au's), and St. Louis, Mo.—six congregations, with 2791 souls and 1836 communicant members.

The total membership in Group A is 8224 souls and 5061 communicants.

It is impossible to figure the English element in the remaining groups, because that is merged in the German census.

In tabulated form the status of the English work of the German Missouri Synod, by Districts, Groups and Divisions, presents the following aspects:—

GROUPS:	A						B						C						D				TOTAL FOR DISTRICT:																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
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An English element may also be recognized in congregations which conduct a Sunday school. Quite a number of pastors reporting Sunday schools specify that their Sunday school is English, others, that German and English is used in their Sunday school, while still others report the mere fact that there is a Sunday school in their congregations. We may safely take the existence of a Sunday school as presumptive evidence that English services are conducted at that place. The *Year-Book* reports 420 Sunday schools. Of these 303 also state their membership, which totals 17,606 pupils. Of the congregations and missions reporting Sunday schools, only those are included in the above tables which have definitely stated that they conduct English preaching. There are not many that have reported both facts.

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