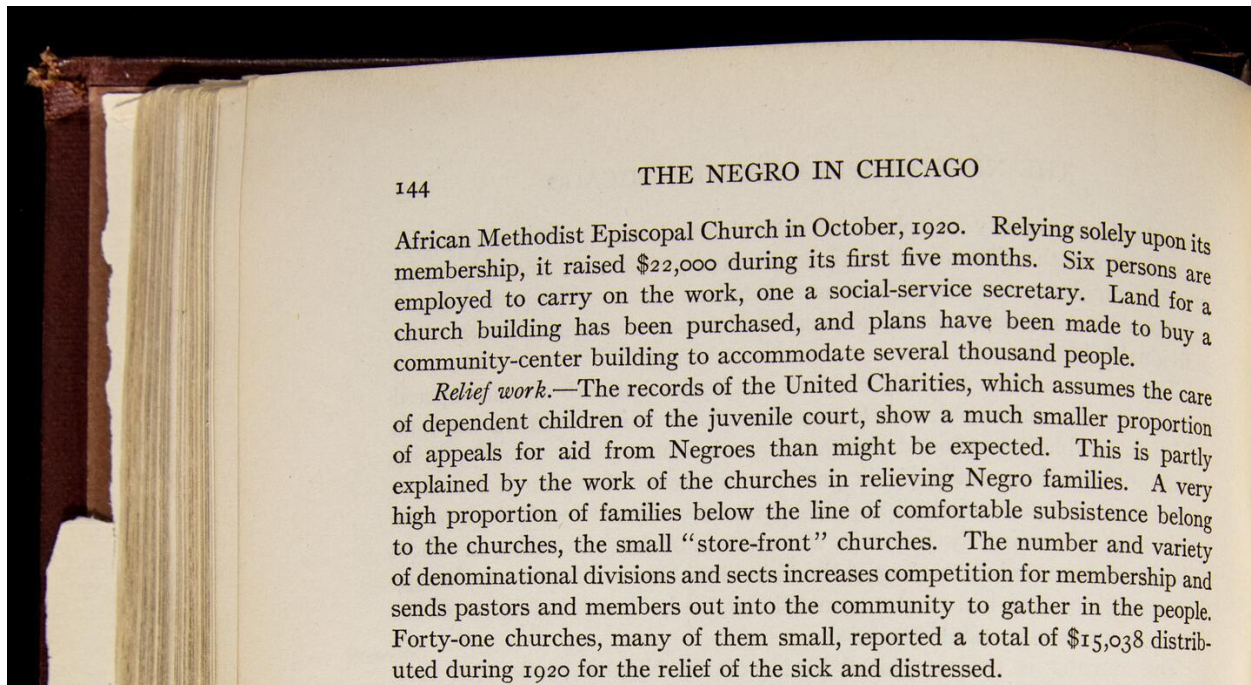


## Chicago Commission on Race Relations, *The Negro in Chicago: A Study of Race Relations and a Race Riot, 143-145 (1922)*

*Social activities.*—The churches in Chicago serve as social-contact centers, though not to the same extent as in the South. Frequently they arrange lectures, community programs, fêtes, and meetings. Many of them, seeking to influence the conduct of the group, have provided recreation and amusements for their members. Several churches have social-service departments, basket-ball teams, and literary societies. Olivet Baptist Church, with a membership of 9,069, maintains an employment department, rooming directory, kindergarten, and day nursery, and employs sixteen workers; in its social organization there are forty-two auxiliary departments. During the last five years it has raised \$200,000, contributed \$5,600 for charitable relief, and found jobs for 1,100 Negroes.

Unique among such developments is the People's Church and Metropolitan Community Center, organized by a group which withdrew from the Bethel



Following is a summary of information collected by the Commission concerning the churches in the Negro community:

Number of churches, regular and "store-front".....	170
Number visited.....	146
Number of churches owning their property.....	49
Value of property owned.....	\$1,677,183
Indebtedness on church properties being bought.....	\$325,895.91
Amount collected in 146 churches during 1919.....	\$400,000.00
Membership of 62 of the 146 churches.....	36,856
Number in Sunday school in 57 of 146 churches.....	16,847
Number of persons in attendance in 64 of 146 churches	
Morning.....	20,379
Evening.....	13,806

In a very few cases, Negroes are found to be members of white churches, but the Negro churches have an entirely Negro membership with Negro pastors.

*"Store-front" churches.*—The "store-front" church membership is merely a small group which, for one reason or another, has sought to worship independently of any connection with the larger churches. The establishment of such a church may be the result of a withdrawal of part of the membership of a larger church. They secure a pastor or select a leader from their own number and continue their worship in a place where their notions are not in conflict with other influences. Most frequently a minister formerly in the South has come with or followed his migrant members and has re-established his church in Chicago. Or again a group with religious beliefs and ceremonies not in accord with those of established churches may establish a church of its own. The groups are usually so small and the members so poor as to make the purchase of a building impossible. The custom has been to engage a small store and put chairs in it. Hence the name "store-front" church.

THE NEGRO POPULATION OF CHICAGO

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*Denominations.*—The varieties of denominational divisions are wide and interesting. A classification on the basis of information collected by the Commission is given in Table VII.

TABLE VII

Denomination	Regular	"Store-Front"
Baptist:		
Missionary Baptist.....	19	61
Free Will Baptist.....		2
Primitive Baptist.....		4
Methodist:		
Methodist Episcopal.....	6	
African Methodist Episcopal.....	9	6
African Methodist Episcopal Zion.....	3	1
Colored Methodist Episcopal.....	3	
Independent Methodist Episcopal.....		6
Presbyterian.....	2	2
Episcopal.....	1	
Congregational.....	1	
Disciples of Christ.....	1	
Saints, Holiness, and Healing Churches.....		20
Total.....	45	102

The steady growth in the number of churches is shown in the dates of organization of sixty-five of them as given in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII

Year	Number
1825-50.....	2
1850-80.....	2
1880-90.....	5
1890-1900.....	5
1900-1910.....	5
1910-15.....	12
1915-16.....	4
1917.....	3
1918.....	15
1919.....	6
1920.....	6
Total.....	65

*Church property.*—It was not easy to determine the amount of money raised and handled by the Negro churches for any specific period, because only the better-organized churches keep accurate accounts.

The total value of the property holdings of twenty-six of the larger and better-organized churches is \$1,677,183.02, with a total indebtedness on nineteen of them of \$318,595.91. In twenty of the twenty-six annual collections aggregate \$226,216.25.

