



THE YEARBOOK

of American & Canadian Churches

ASSOCIATION OF STATISTICIANS OF AMERICAN RELIGIOUS BODIES

THE YEARBOOK OF AMERICAN & CANADIAN CHURCHES

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ABOUT THE YEARBOOK

The Yearbook of American & Canadian Churches has served as the definitive handbook of North American denominations since 1916. Over our 100 year history, The Yearbook has remained an authoritative source for the most accurate and complete compilation of statistical data for North American religious bodies. Now an interactive online application, The Yearbook continues to catalog census information for *** denominational religious bodies. As of 2020, the Yearbook represents ***,*** faithful members, ***,*** clergy, ***,*** congregations, **,*** educational bodies, and more than \$***,***,***,***.** in total financial commitment.

Each listing contains a brief paragraph about the religious body, contact information for the group, and informative graphs detailing current and historical statistical data. Previously stewarded by the National Council of Churches, The Yearbook is overseen by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB). in partnership with The National Council of Churches and Lake Institute on Faith and Giving. We invite you to join our effort by adding data for your religious group, becoming an ASARB member or making a contribution to our cause.

Visit us online at www.asarb.org.

OUR PARTNERS



UNION OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES OF CHRIST (ORTHODOX DOUKHOBORS IN CANADA)



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[Christian Protestant TO BE
ALLOCATED](#)

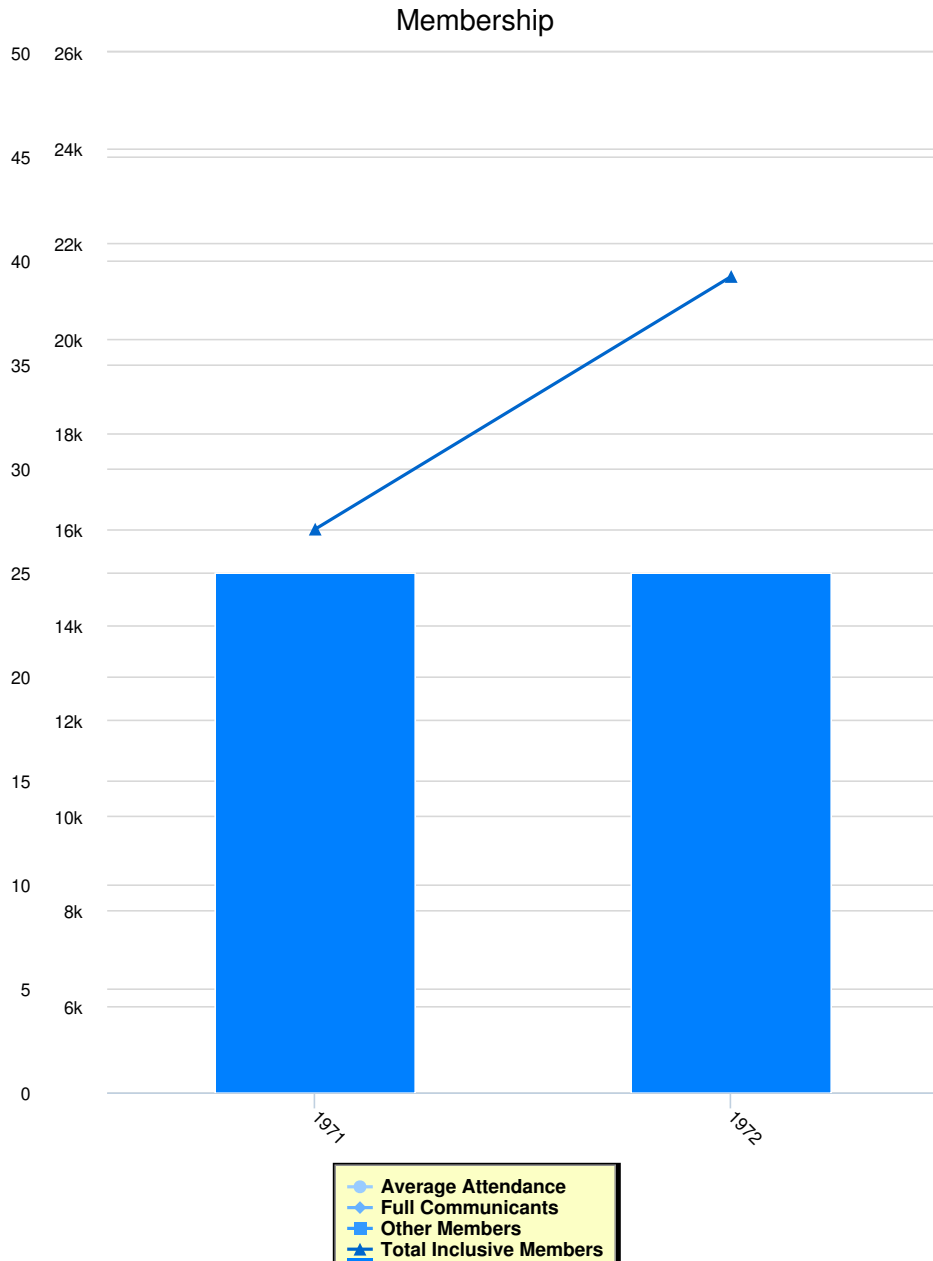
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The Doukhobors are Canadians of Russian origin living primarily in the western provinces of Canada, but their beginnings in Russia are unknown. The name “Doukhobors,” or “Spirit Wrestlers,” was given them in derision by the Russian Orthodox clergy in Russia as far back as 1785. The Doukhobors were persecuted by the church for rejecting Orthodoxy, and following the counsel of their leader, Peter V. Verigin, earned the wrath of the Tsarist government by destroying all of their weapons and adopting pacifism in 1895. In 1899 the Tsarist government allowed 8,000 Doukhobors to leave Russia in response to an international uproar over their persecution by the church and state. They made their way to Canada with the assistance of Count Leo Tolstoy, who saw in these people the living embodiment of his philosophy, the Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers and other people of good will. Originally settled in Saskatchewan, by 1911 the majority followed Verigin to British Columbia because of government efforts to assimilate them.

The teaching of the Doukhobors is penetrated with the Gospel spirit of love. Worshiping God in the spirit, they affirm that the outward church and all that is performed in it and concerns it has no importance for them; the church is where two or three are gathered together, united in the name of Christ. They do not believe in icon worship or in intermediaries between themselves and God. Their spiritual teachings are founded on ancient tradition, which they call the “Book of Life,” because it lives in their memory and hearts. In this book are psalms composed by their elders and leaders, partly formed out of the contents of the Bible partly out of their historical experience. These are committed to memory by each succeeding generation. Doukhobors observe complete pacifism and non-violence, are lacto-vegetarians, and attempt to maintain a communal lifestyle.

The majority of Canadian Doukhobors were reorganized in 1938 by Peter P. Verigin, son of P.V. Verigin, shortly before his death, into the Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ to distinguish themselves from a radical offshoot who call themselves Sons of Freedom, and whose embrace of nudity and deprivations has been sensationalized by the media and has stigmatized all Doukhobors. Today the USCC is governed by Trustees elected from member communities and administered by an elected Executive Committee headed by Honourary Chairman, John J. Verigin, CM OBC. The USCC executes the will and protects the interests of its member communities and its members living beyond south central British Columbia where the USCC is headquartered. The USCC is the largest organization of Doukhobors and maintains relations with other Doukhobor groups across Canada, in the USA, the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, and Georgia. The USCC also cooperates with other non-governmental organizations working non-violently to promote peace and justice, and respect for human dignity and ecological integrity.



Instructions for the Chart and Legend

Simply click on the data set in the legend to make the values appear or disappear from the chart.

	Full Communicants	Average Attendance	Other Members	Total Inclusive Members	Total Churches	Membership Calculation Method
1972	0	0	0	21,300	25	
1971	5,000	0	11,000	16,000	25	

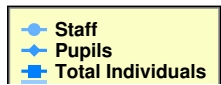
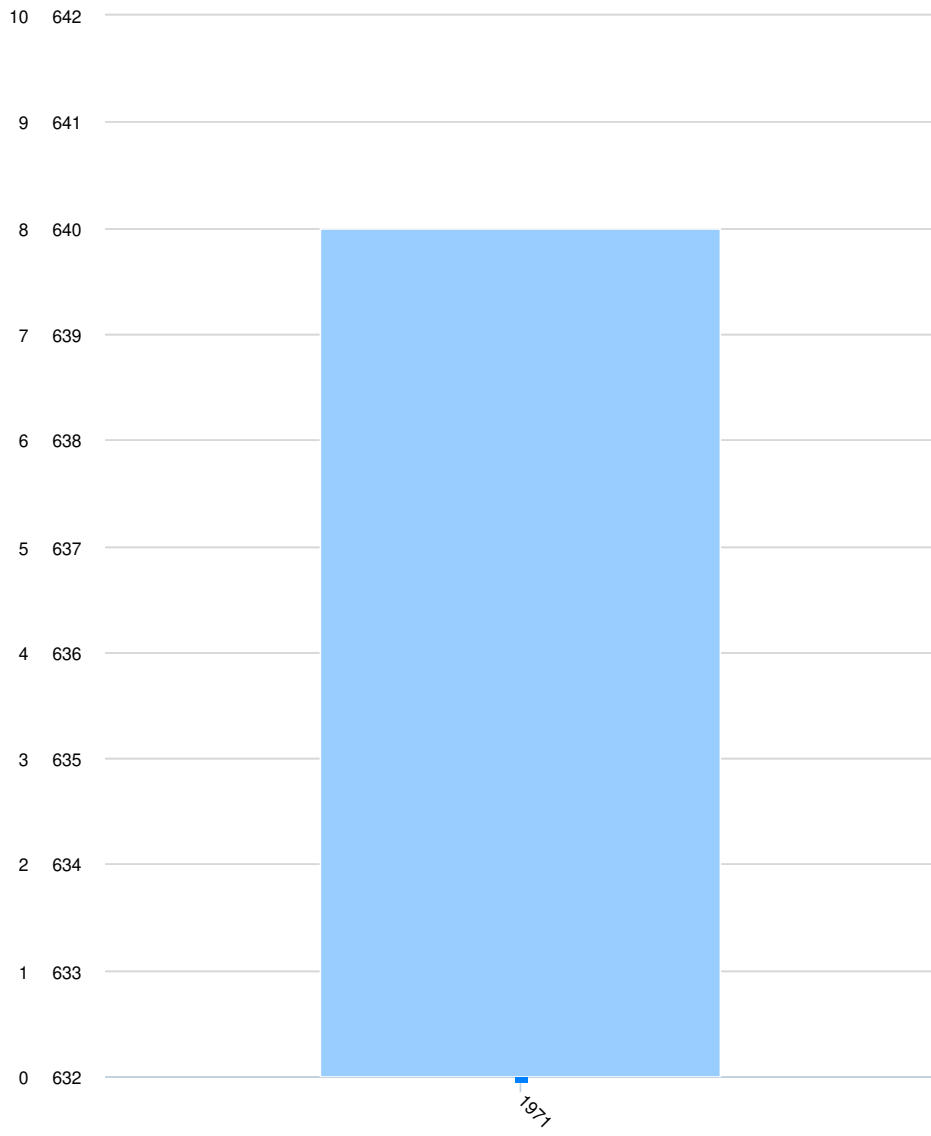
Serving Churches

Retired

Clergy
Other Service to the Church
There is no data yet

Total Clergy

Education



Education

	Total Schools	Staff	Pupils	Total Individuals
1971	8	0	0	632

Total Benevolences	Total Financials	Finance	Total Giving	Local Expenses	Method
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There is no data yet