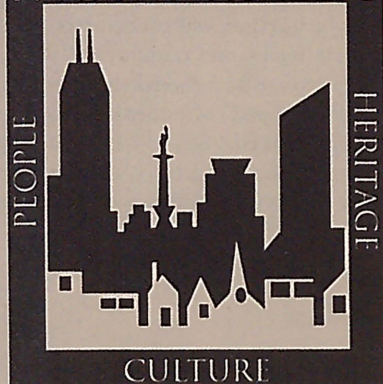


## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INDIANAPOLIS



Presented by the  
**POLIS Research Center**  
at  
**Indiana University-  
Purdue University  
at Indianapolis**

*Spring 1992*

*Volume 1 • Number 4*

### **Religion at the Crossroads of America**

G. K. Chesterton once remarked that America is a nation with the soul of a church. The history of religion in Indianapolis confirms this observation. The city has been home to a wide variety of religious groups and personalities, from the nationally prominent Henry Ward Beecher (Second Presbyterian Church, 1839-47), to the Cadles, whose Tabernacle was a regular stop for well-known evangelists early in this century, to Rev. Jim Jones (The People's Temple Full Gospel Church, 1955-1964), who later led his 900-member cult to Guyana and mass suicide in November, 1978. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Free Methodist Church, and Wesleyan Church maintain their church headquarters here. Christian Theological Seminary, begun as the School of Religion at Butler University in 1925, separated from the university and incorporated in 1958 and still serves as the seminary for the Christian Church. Local institutions carry the names of past religious leaders, among them Butler, Ritter, and Chatard. Religious symbols dot the urban landscape, and downtown monuments pay patriotic homage to our civil religion. Even the most recent mayor proudly titled his 1987 autobiography, *Minister/Mayor*.

Ironically, the story of this rich tradition remains largely hidden, except to scholars and church historians. In its entries on religion, the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* will begin to remedy this deficit of knowledge and lay the groundwork for further study of how religion has shaped the modern city. The volume will feature articles on the various denominations, institutions, people, and events that have con-

tributed significantly to the city's religious heritage. With few exceptions, space limits preclude separate entries on individual congregations, but essays on the parent religious bodies will develop the story of each denomination's growth, including the establishment of its member churches. Additional entries will address topics such as Sabbath (or Sunday) Schools, Religious Broadcasting, Revivals, Religion and Race Relations, and Ecumenism in Indianapolis, among others.

Jan Shipp, L. C. Rudolph, and Robert M. Taylor, Jr., all widely known for their studies of religion, serve as editors for this section. After identifying potential entries and authors, they shared their initial list with members of the Indiana Religious History Association, an organization formed in 1976 to promote the study of the state's religious history. This consultation provided valuable advice from a cross-section of knowledgeable people and led to further refinement of the entry list. The editors then invited expert writers from inside and outside the academy, including many members of the IRHA, to place the story of religion in Indianapolis in a broader and explicitly comparative context.

Religion has always been important to the identity of Indianapolis. Yet most people fail to understand or appreciate its role, in large part because the story has been written only in fragments. The *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* will redress this imbalance by adding important new information and providing a framework for the study and interpretation of this vital part of our urban culture. ■

Lilly Endowment Supports Religion Project

At its May meeting, Lilly Endowment, Inc. approved a planning grant of \$93,534 to the POLIS Research Center and the Indiana Religious History Association for "Indianapolis History from a Religious Perspective." The grant will support a staff member to work on the religion section of the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* and help the IRHA and POLIS plan a multi-year project to trace the role of religion

Congregations in Changing Communities

How do local congregations respond to demographic, social, and economic change? This question provides the focus for two studies conducted by the POLIS Research Center at IUPUI. Four POLIS researchers are working with similar teams in Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta, and Boston on "Congregations in Changing Communities," a national project funded by the Lilly Endowment and coordinated by Emory University. By charting the ways in which churches meet — or fail to respond to — challenges posed by changes in their communities, researchers hope to learn more about their potential to serve local needs. POLIS will examine churches in Carmel and Anderson, one a prosperous and rapidly growing city on the northeastern edge of Marion County, the other a city experiencing economic and population decline. A first research phase, now in progress, will gather information on the degree and direction of change occurring in the two cities and survey local churches to obtain basic information about their congregations and programs. With these data, the research teams will consult with project directors in Atlanta to select at least two churches in each area for detailed ethnographic study. Researchers will analyze church records, interview members, observe services, and survey community leaders and residents to determine how and how well the congregations are serving their communities. These local studies will be compared to the results from the other participant cities in a book on

in the city's development. During the planning year, project participants will collect data, identify research strategies, and outline the necessary steps to create a model study of how religion has shaped and continues to influence this major American city. If you desire additional information on the project, call the project office in the POLIS Research Center at 274-2455. ■

congregational responses to community change. Publication is expected in 1994. In a separate project, POLIS is working with St. Alban's Episcopal Church, located at Emerson and 46th streets in Indianapolis, to help it understand the changes that have occurred in its neighborhood since the congregation's beginnings in 1956. Demographic and socioeconomic data from several U.S. censuses and other sources will allow POLIS to map the changes on GIS (geographic information systems) for analysis and visual presentation. POLIS will also survey church members (past and present) and conduct focus group discussions to identify perceptions of and responses to the changes that have affected the community served by St. Alban's. Finally, POLIS will conduct interviews to discover how local residents believe this vital community institution, winner of a 1992 King-Walker-Wilkins-Young Award, can best serve the neighborhood. These projects and others further the POLIS goal of discovering how local institutions work, how they affect their neighborhoods, and what their actions (or inaction) mean for community development in an urban environment. By focusing its research on local issues and practical problems, POLIS hopes not only to expand the public's understanding of Indianapolis and its surrounding communities but also to help find local solutions to important national problems and opportunities confronting cities. ■

"We have preaching in town every Sabbath, and our society is excellent. The moral and correct deportment of our citizens is the subject of remark to every observing and intelligent traveler." *Western Censor* (Indianapolis), October 19, 1824

"Indianapolis was unquestionably more moral and religious than the average frontier town." Jacob Piatt Dunn, *Greater Indianapolis* (1910)

**Encyclopedia of Indianapolis Staff**

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Lamont J. Hulse . . . . . Senior Associate

Patricia Dean . . . . . Senior Associate

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Research Assistants

Meet the Contributing Editors - Religion

Three well-known scholars share editorial responsibilities for the Religion section of the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Jan B. Shipps, professor of religious studies, history, and American studies at IUPUI, is a nationally-recognized authority on Mormonism. Her book *Mormonism: The Story of a New Religious Tradition* (1985) is considered a significant reinterpretation of the origins of this 19th-century American religion. She also serves as co-editor of *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, a national quarterly published by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at IUPUI. L. C. Rudolph, curator of books (emeritus) at the Lilly Library, Indiana University-Bloomington, is an expert on Presbyterianism in Indiana. He is the author of *Hoosier Zion: The Presbyterians in Early Indiana* (1963) and co-author of *Religion in Indiana: A Guide to Historical Resources* (1986). Robert M. Taylor, Jr., director of the Research Projects and Grants Division of the Indiana Historical Society, is a recognized authority on Baptists and various facets of Indiana history. He is the co-author most recently of *Indiana: A New Historical Guide* (1989). ■

**Religion Section - Approved Entries to Date**

Baptists	Jones, James
Beecher, Henry Ward	Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)
Butler, Ovid	Lutherans
Cadle Tabernade	Methodists
Catholics	Monasteries and Retreat Houses
Chaplaincies	Occult
Chatard, Francis Silas (Bishop)	O'Meara, Edward T. (Archbishop)
Christ Church	Pentecostal Churches
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	Presbyterians
Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis	Religion and Race Relations
Church of Christ, Scientist (Christian Science)	Religion and Social Services
Church Women United	Religion and the Media
Cults	Religious Missions (Home and Foreign)
Eastern Orthodox Churches	Religious Revivalism
Ecumenism	Ritter, Joseph (Cardinal)
Episcopalians	SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
Feuerlicht, Morris	Sabbatarianism
Freemasonry	Second Presbyterian Church
Freethinkers	Sunday (Sabbath) Schools
Gideons	Seventh Day Adventists
Holiness Churches	Smith, Gerald L.K.
Indiana Interreligious Commission on Human Equality	Society of Friends (Quakers)
Islam	Unitarian Universalists
Jehovah's Witnesses	United Church of Christ
Jews	Unity Church

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NEWS FROM POLIS

The POLIS Research Center is pleased to announce that two Indianapolis high school students have received research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study special topics in Indianapolis history during the coming summer. Helen K. Geib, a junior at Arsenal Technical High School, and Mark E. Schneider, a recent graduate of Brebeuf Preparatory School, are the recipients of NEH Younger Scholars Awards. These awards provide students with opportunities to conduct independent research and writing projects under the supervision of an academic advisor. Both students will work under the direction of David G. Vanderstel, research associate in POLIS and assistant editor of the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*.

Geib's project, entitled "Interconnecting Spheres: Women's Organizations in Community Life - Indianapolis, 1880-1920," will examine the history of women's organizations and focus specifically on those dedicated to civic improvement. Schneider's research project, entitled "Over Here: The Homefront in Indianapolis During World War I," will focus on local attitudes about US involvement in the war, reactions of local ethnic groups, and the public's treatment of those groups.

Another presentation in the "Urban Agenda: IUPUI on the Circle" series is scheduled for July 15, 12:00 noon to 1:00.

Dec A. Revnyak, director of IMAGIS (Indianapolis Mapping and Geographic Infrastructure System), will speak on "IMAGIS: Mapping Indianapolis' Infrastructure on Computer." This lunchtime discussion will be hosted with the cooperation of the Associated Group in their headquarters at 120 Monument Circle, Conference Room A. The discussion is free of

charge. For more information on this series, contact Lamont Hulse at (317) 274-2458.

Over the past five months, POLIS, represented by David G. Vanderstel, has been working with an Indianapolis Public Schools task force to identify ways of improving educational programs by extending the environs of the school into the surrounding community. The task force, consisting of educators, government officials, business representatives, and interested parents and citizens, compiled numerous suggestions (including several POLIS-sponsored projects) for collaborative programs between the school system and local businesses, cultural institutions, and colleges and universities. They passed their suggestions along to the school's strategic planning team who will decide whether and how to implement the task force's suggestions.

POLIS sponsored the District 11 History Day competition at IUPUI on March 14, 1992. Over 200 students representing 10 Marion County schools participated in the day-long contest, the theme of which was "Discovery, Encounter, Exchange in History: The Seeds of Change." District winners advanced to the state contest held at the new Indiana State Government Center on May 9. Those who won at state and who will advance to the National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland, College Park, in mid-June include students from School #107 and Northview Middle School. The POLIS Research Center extends its congratulations to all winners and participants. Plans are currently underway for next year's district contest to be held in March 1993. Anyone interested in underwriting the contest or providing special awards should call the POLIS office at 274-2455. ■

Largest Religious Bodies in Marion County, 1990

Church/Denomination	# Churches	# Members	# Adherents
1. Catholic Church	43	N.A.	84,033
2. Black Baptist, misc.	N.A.	44,854	56,403
3. United Methodist	64	29,445	37,027
4. Christian Churches and Churches of Christ	35	18,160	22,836
5. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	30	14,071	20,596
6. Presbyterian Church (USA)	23	14,306	17,990
7. American Baptist USA	29	9,132	11,483
8. AME Zion	6	7,945	10,328
9. Assembly of God	13	4,384	10,229
10. Southern Baptist Convention	25	7,438	9,353

NOTE: "Members" are defined as individuals with full church membership status. "Adherents" include all full members, their children, and estimated number of other regular participants who are not considered communicants, confirmed, or full members.

Statistics from Martin B. Bradley, Norman M. Green, Jr., Dale E. Jones, Mac Lynn, Lou McNeil, *Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990: An Enumeration by Region, State and County Based on Data Reported for 133 Church Groupings*, Glenmary Research Center, Atlanta, Georgia, 1992.

## Timeline

### Religion in Indianapolis

**1801** Moravians establish mission to Native Americans living along White River.

**1821** Methodists organize class meeting in newly-settled town of Indianapolis.

**1826** Indianapolis Sabbath School Union founded.

**1836** The first African Methodist Episcopal church established in Indianapolis. Adopts name Bethel AME in 1869.

**1839** Henry Ward Beecher begins pastorate at Second Presbyterian Church and serves until 1847.

**1840** First Catholic church established in town.

**1853** First Universalist church in Indianapolis organized.

**1855** Legislative act imposes fines for persons quarreling, rioting, fishing, hunting, or engaging in common labor on Sunday, "works of charity or necessity excepted."

**1856** Fourteen Jews organize the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. Dedicate first synagogue on East Market Street in 1868.

**1883** "Evangelische Lutherische Waisenhaus Gessellschaft" established by members of St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran churches as asylum for orphans and the aged. Now known as Lutheran Child and Family Services.

**1888** St. Philip's (Episcopal) established on West Street as mission church to African-American population. Organized as church in 1901.

**1906** Church of the Holy Trinity (Catholic) established by Slovenian immigrants living in Haughville.

**1908** Indianapolis *News* reports a startling influx of "new sects and cults" (holiness, pentecostal, missionary evangelical) in the capital city, making a primary appeal to poorer classes among the white population.

**1912** Indianapolis Church Federation established to address issues of evangelism, public morals, and interchurch cooperation.

**1916** "Indianapolis Plan of Evangelism" discussed by local churches. Plan designed to enlist all congregations to hold annual evangelistic campaigns and join in city-wide publicity blitz to encourage church membership.

**1920** Reemergence of Ku Klux Klan leads to intensified anti-Catholicism and anti-Semitism in the city. Church Federation establishes committee on Race Relations.

**1925** Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, an organizer of the NAACP, speaks before the Indianapolis Ministerial Association at Roberts Park Methodist Episcopal Church.

**1926** Merle Sidener's "Christian Men's Builders' Hour" broadcasts over radio station WFBM and originates from the Third Christian Church, 17th and Broadway streets. Program lasts until 1955.

**1943** Indiana Legislature enacts the "Religious Education Bill," which permits two hours of release-time from the classroom each week for the pursuit of religious education.

**1950** Church Federation of Indianapolis involved in founding of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

**1952** Greater Indianapolis Evangelistic Mission occurs. More than 9,000 canvassers recruited from 290 congregations conduct religious census of the city. Nearly 130,000 calls made with religious preferences established for 325,000 people.

**1958** Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. addresses assembly of 4,000 at Cadle Tabernacle on issue of race discrimination.

The School of Religion at Butler University incorporates separately as Christian Theological Seminary to maintain closer ties to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**1959** Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council surveys religious practices in public schools, revealing extensive breaches of separation of church and state.

Billy Graham Crusade visits city for the first time. Attracts nearly 20,000 to open air services on the Circle and 35,000 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

**1961** Mayor's Human Rights Commission established with Rev. Jim Jones, pastor of the People's Temple, as first full-time director.

**1962** Rabbi Solomon Silberberg of Congregation Sharah Tefilla pleads for a "common cause to save Judaism" in the city. Helps to unite three southside congregations in the new United Orthodox Hebrew Congregation.

**1967** H.O.M.E. Inc. [Housing Opportunities Multiplied Ecumenically] founded by local religious bodies to provide housing for impoverished population. Now known as Interfaith Housing Inc.

**1976** Lilly Endowment establishes "Institutional Grants Programs in Financial Development for Theological Seminaries" to assist schools in raising funds for theological education.

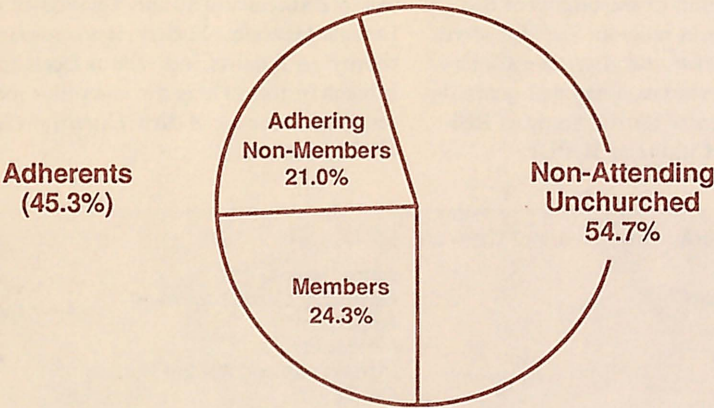
**1977** Ordination ceremonies for the first female priests in the Episcopal Church — Jacqueline Means of Indianapolis and Natalya Vonnegut — held at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

**1992** Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, in conjunction with neighborhood associations and social service agencies, concentrates efforts on assisting at-risk families in Center Township.

Southern Baptist Convention, nation's largest Protestant denomination, holds annual meeting in the Hoosier Dome.

Church Membership in Indianapolis, 1990

Total Number of Churches in Marion County	523
Number of Communicants, Confirmed, Full Members	193,869
Number of Adherents	361,192
Total Indianapolis Population	797,159
Percent of Population Adhering to Religious Organization	45.3%
Percent of Population "Unchurched" or Non-Attending	54.7%



Statistics from Martin B. Bradley, Norman M. Green, Jr., Dale E. Jones, Mac Lynn, Lou McNeil, *Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990: An Enumeration by Region, State and County Based on Data Reported for 133 Church Groupings*, Glenmary Research Center, Atlanta, Georgia, 1992.

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