

# **ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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Organization and administration of religious education by John Elbert Stout

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**JOHN ELBERT STOUT**

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# Organization and Administration of Religious Education

JOHN ELBERT STOUT

Professor of Administration in Religious Education  
Northwestern University



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## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

UPON the Christian Church of America there rests the responsibility of nurturing the religious life of the American people. This responsibility is created by the essential nature of the materials of which the church is the custodian and by the constitutional provision by which the state is prevented from undertaking to transmit religion to the coming generation of citizens. Furthermore, the significance of this primary responsibility of the church is recognized by the leaders in the field of general education and by a rapidly increasing number of other forward-looking citizens who look upon religious illiteracy as a national menace.

Brought face to face with this responsibility and at a time when the need of religion in our national life is particularly apparent, the church confronts the practical necessity of formulating a clear conception of the objectives of its educational program and of the means by which these objectives can be reached most quickly and with the least expenditure of money and energy.

The real leaders of the church will readily recognize the fact that this task must be conceived in terms of a gigantic educational project—one that involves a suitable policy and technique. It is not enough to labor with prophetic passion to keep alive the souls of the adult members of the congregation. To reclaim thousands of adults while millions of children are allowed to grow up as moral and religious illiterates is not the present-day program of the church. To reclaim the