

manner as they may judge most conducive to the interests of their respective parishes, and also to take and receive any sum or sums of money, and any kind of goods and chattels, which may or shall be given, sold or bequeathed, unto them, by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable to make a gift, sale or bequest thereof, and to apply the same for the use of their respective parishes as herein before directed; provided, that the clear yearly value of the estate of any vestry, (exclusive of the rents of pews, collections in churches, funeral charges, and the like,) shall not exceed two thousand dollars.

No vestry  
to sell their  
estates, &c.

SEC. 29. *And be it enacted,* That no vestry shall sell, alien or transfer, any of their estates, or property belonging to their church or churches, without the consent of five at least of their body, (of which number the rector shall always be one,) together with the consent of both the churchwardens, and in case there be no rector in the parish, then it shall be necessary to obtain the consent of the bishop of the protestant episcopal church in this state for the time being, previous to any sale, alienation or transfer, of any of the estates or property aforesaid.

Or apply  
the principal,  
&c.

SEC. 30. *And be it enacted,* That no vestry shall apply any of the principal of the money arising from the sales of any of the estates or property aforesaid towards any debt or debts contracted with their minister on account of his official duties.

Not to prevent  
the vestry from  
buying, &c.

SEC. 31. *And be it enacted,* That nothing herein before contained shall be construed to prevent the vestry of any parish from buying at any time a lot of land, not exceeding two acres, for a burial-ground, or a site for a church or parsonage-house, or from selling or renting the pews of their churches or chapels, provided in so doing the said vestry shall not interfere with any existing right or title in any person to any pew or pews.

Vestry may  
sue, &c.

SEC. 32. *And be it enacted,* That the vestry of every parish, and their successors, (by the name aforesaid,) shall be for ever hereafter able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all or any courts of justice, and before all or any judges, officers or other persons whatsoever, in all and singular actions, matters and demands whatsoever; and that it shall and may be lawful for them, and their successors, for ever hereafter, to have a common seal for their use, and the same, at the will and pleasure of them, and their successors, to change, alter, break and make anew, from time to time, as they shall think best.

Convention  
may divide  
parishes,  
&c.

SEC. 33. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this state to divide or unite parishes, as occasion may require, and to alter their bounds, and to constitute new parishes; and vestrymen