

tion of any property held by such corporation under any instrument prohibiting such sale; and provided the clear yearly income from the estate of any church, society or congregation, exclusive of the rents of pews, collections in churches, funeral charges and the like, shall not exceed the yearly sum of twenty thousand dollars.

Sec. 158. *And be it enacted*, That every such body politic shall be chosen and the succession kept up at such times and places as are ordinarily used for public meetings of the said church, society or congregation, and by such persons as are allowed to have a voice in the management and direction of congregational or temporal concerns, according to the known custom and usage of their respective denominations; or the said body politic or corporate shall be chosen, and the succession kept up, according to the rules, regulations and practice that may have been heretofore adopted and agreed upon, or that shall be, at the first time of electing agreed upon and adopted by any particular church, society or congregation for directing or managing their congregational or temporal affairs.

Directions.

Sec. 160. *And be it enacted*, That the minister for the time being, or senior minister, where there are more than one settled in any church, society or congregation, shall always, in virtue of his ministry, be a member of the body politic or corporate belonging to the same, exclusive of the number heretofore prescribed.

Minister to be a member.

Sec. 161. *And be it enacted*, That if any contest shall arise in any church, society or congregation, about the right of voting, or whether the election has been fairly conducted, agreeably to the true intent and meaning of this Article, the parties contending shall each of them choose one discreet and reputable person from amongst the members or trustees of some neighboring congregation or society of the same religious persuasion, if any such there be, and if none such, then of any other religious society, which two persons shall choose a third, qualified in like manner, and the said three persons shall meet at the place where the difference has arisen, and hear and determine upon the matter, and their judgment or award, or the judg-

Right to vote.

Award.