

§ 41. It shall be thereafter called, distinguished and known, and the name of the church, society or congregation, choosing the same, which said plan, agreement or regulation, shall be entered in the book herein after directed to be kept by every the said body politic or corporate, and the same shall be acknowledged by the said trustees, or a majority of them, before, and certified by, any two justices of the peace for the county in which the said church, society or congregation, or the greatest number of them, shall reside, or the same shall be acknowledged before, and certified by, any of the judges of the general court, after being well assured by the said trustees, or a majority of them, that the proceedings have been legally and duly conducted; and the said plan or agreement, so acknowledged and certified, shall be filed by the said trustees with the clerk of the county court where the said church, society or congregation, or the greater part of them, shall reside, within six months after such acknowledgment shall be made, and the same shall be recorded in a book to be provided for these special purposes, at the expense of the several corporations in that county whose proceedings shall be so recorded, and a copy of the said proceedings from the records thereof, under the hand of the clerk, and the public seal of his office, shall be of the same force and effect, in every court of law and equity within this state, as the original proceedings would be if the same were produced in court; and if any future change or alteration shall be made in the original plan, by authority of the congregation as aforesaid, such change or alteration shall in the same manner be made known and recorded; and the said clerk shall be entitled to such fees for his services as are allowed by law for services of the like nature in matters belonging to his office.

Every corporation to hold and use a seal.

6. AND BE IT ENACTED, That every corporation or body politic aforesaid respectively, and their successors, or the majority of them, by their name of incorporation aforesaid, shall have full power and authority to hold and use one common seal, to appoint the times and places of their meetings, and the number necessary to constitute a quorum, and shall moreover provide and keep a good and sufficient record book, and cause to be therein registered a fair account of all their proceedings, subject at all times to the inspection of the several members of the church, society or congregation, in whose behalf the same are respectively entered, and the same shall be laid before a public meeting, when thereunto required by any five or more of the same; and the said trustees, or a majority of them, shall have full power and authority to frame such rules and ordinances for conducting their concerns as may be necessary and convenient for accomplishing the end of their institution; *Provided always*, that nothing therein contained shall be repugnant to, but perfectly consistent with, the constitution and laws of this state.

Proviso.

Vested with an estate in fee simple.

7. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all and every of the said corporations or trustees, and their successors, by their respective names or titles, shall be vested with an estate in fee-simple in any land or parcel of ground not exceeding two acres, and also in every chapel, meeting-house, or other house of worship belonging to, or in the use of, the particular church, society or congregation, for which they are respectively chosen as a body politic or corporate, and shall also, by their respective names or titles, have absolute property in all books, plate or other ornaments, and all goods and chat-