

more than five hundred dollars for each offense, one-half of said fine to go to the informer.

Religious Corporations.

1888, art. 23, sec. 205. 1868, ch. 471, sec. 156.

301. In every church, religious society or congregation, of whatever sect, order or denomination, or which shall at any time hereafter be known and acknowledged in the State, and protected in the free and full exercise of its religion by the constitution and the laws thereof, there shall be sufficient power and authority in all persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, to elect, at their discretion, certain sober and discreet persons, not less than four, nor more than twelve, which persons so elected, upon being registered, as hereinafter directed, shall be constituted a body politic or corporate to act as trustees in the name and behalf of the particular church, society or congregation for which they are respectively chosen, and to manage the estate, property, interest and inheritance of the same.

Bethel Church v. Carmack, 2 Md. Ch. 144. *Neale v. Vestry of St. Paul's Church*, 8 Gill, 116. *Tartai v. Gibbs*, 24 Md. 323. *Erhardt v. Balto Monthly Meeting*, 93 Md. 681.

Ibid. sec. 206. 1868, ch. 471, sec. 157.

302. The trustees so elected shall have perpetual succession by their name of incorporation, and shall be capable in law to purchase, take and hold to them and their successors in fee, or for a less estate, any lands, tenements or hereditaments, rents or annuities, goods or chattels within this State, by the gift, bargain, sale or devise of any person, body politic or corporate, capable of making the same, and to use or lease, mortgage or sell and convey the same in such manner as they may judge most conducive to the interest of their respective churches, societies or congregations; provided, that nothing herein shall authorize any sale, mortgage or other disposition 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 sum of twenty thousand dollars.

Erhardt v. Balto. Monthly Meeting, 93 Md 681.

Ibid. sec. 207. 1868, ch. 471, sec. 158.

303. Every such body politic shall be chosen and the succession kept up at such times and places as are ordinarily used