

heading "III. Particular Classes of Corporations," subtitle "Religious Corporations," be and the same are hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, to read as follows:

256. Number of trustees; trustees constitute body politic.

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 twenty-five,] 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 manage the estate, property, interest and inheritance of the same.

257. Powers of trustees in general.

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 fifty thousand dollars]. *Any member or members of the trustees authorized by resolution of the trustees shall have full power and authority to execute on behalf of the trustees any deed, mortgage or other conveyance of property, real or personal, to be sold, transferred or encumbered, or any other instrument requiring execution by the trustees for any purpose. The corporate seal, if any, of the trustees may be affixed to any such deed, mortgage, conveyance or other instrument, and duly attested, by any member or members of the trustees authorized to do so by resolution of the trustees.*

261. Plan specifying time and manner of election of trustees, perpetuation of succession and name of church, society or congregation—In general.

At the first election or appointment of every body politic or corporate aforesaid, every church, society or corporation assembled as already directed, shall determine on their plan, agreement or regulation, specifying distinctly *the purpose or purposes for which said body politic or corporate is formed*, the time and manner of electing trustees, and the manner in which the succession shall be perpetuated, and containing an exact description of the qualifications of