

**312G.**

*The rector of each parish for the time being shall preside in the vestry, collect the votes, and shall have a vote, and he shall have, unless he otherwise contracts with the vestry, the possession, occupation and free use of all the glebe-lands, houses, ground-rents, books and other property, belonging to his parish, and be entitled to the benefit thereof during the time he shall officiate therein as rector. Provided, however, that each parish may, by by-laws duly enacted in accordance with the provisions of Section 312A(a) hereof, provide for any additional, or different, manner of determining the presiding officer of a vestry meeting.*

**312H.**

*The vestry of each parish for the time being, as trustees of the parish, shall have an estate in fee-simple in all churches and chapels, and in all glebes, and other lands, and shall have a good title and estate in all other property heretofore belonging to the church of England, or which shall hereafter belong to the said church, now called Protestant Episcopal Church, in Maryland; and it shall be lawful for such vestry so to manage and direct all such property as they may think most advantageous to the interests of the parishioners, and they shall also have the property in all books, plate and other ornaments belonging to said churches and chapels, or any of them.*

**312-I.**

*A Senior Warden and a Junior Warden shall be elected from among the members of the parish entitled to vote. The by-laws of the parish shall provide for the manner of conducting elections of such churchwardens, either by the members of the parish or by the vestry; their length of terms; and the manner of filling vacancies in the office of churchwarden. Their duties shall be as prescribed in the by-laws of the parish, and in the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church and of the Diocese in which such parish is located.*

**312J.**

*The vestry of every parish shall have full power and authority, from time to time, to choose one or more ministers or readers of the Protestant Episcopal Church, (heretofore called the Church of England,) to officiate in any church or chapel belonging to the parish, and to perform the other duties of a minister therein, for such time as the said vestry may think proper, and they may agree and contract with such minister or ministers, reader or readers, for his or their salary, and respecting the use and occupation of the parsonage-house, or any glebe or other lands, or other property, if any, belonging to the parish, and on such terms and conditions as they may think reasonable and proper, and their choice and contract shall be entered among their proceedings; and upon the expiration of such contract, the said vestry may, in their discretion, renew their choice, or make a new contract, but if they do not incline so to do, their former choice and contract shall remain until they declare their desire to make a new choice or contract. Provided, however, that no action shall be taken hereunder contrary to provisions, consonant with public law,*