

or the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church or of the Diocese of said Church wherein the parish is located.

§12K.

Wherever the vestry of any parish has neglected to procure a common seal, and until such common seal be procured, the Secretary of such Parish is authorized to give a certificate of the entry of any birth, marriage or burial entered in the books of said vestry, under the hand of such Secretary, which shall be received in evidence in all courts of justice within this state; provided nevertheless, the said certificate is accompanied with a certificate of the clerk of the county court of the county in which said Secretary resides, under the seal of the said county court, that he knows of his own knowledge, or that it hath been proven to his satisfaction that the person subscribing himself as Secretary of such parish is in fact the Secretary as stated, and that the said certificate was subscribed by said Secretary.

§12L.

If the vestry of any parish should think it necessary to take in subscriptions for the maintenance of their minister or ministers, reader or readers, or for paying the salaries of such other officers as the occasions of the parish may require to be appointed, or for any other parish purposes, it shall and may be lawful for them so to do.

§12M.

The vestrymen of every parish in this state for the time being, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, one community, corporation and body politic, forever, by the name of The Vestry of the parish to which they severally belong, and by the same name they, and their successors, shall and may have perpetual succession, and shall and may, at all times hereafter, be persons able and capable in law to purchase, take and hold, to them and their successors, in fee, or for any less estate or estates, any lands, tenements, hereditaments, rents or annuities, within this state, by the gift, bargain, sale or devise, of any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, capable of making the same, and such lands, tenements or hereditaments, to rent or lease, in such a manner as they may judge most conducive to the interests of their respective parishes, and also to take and receive any sum or sums of money, and any kind of goods and chattels, which may or shall be given, sold or bequeathed, unto them, by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable to make a gift, sale or bequest thereof, and to apply the same for the use of their respective parishes as herein before directed.

§12N.

No vestry shall sell, alien or transfer, any of their estates or property belonging to their church or churches, without the consent of five at least of their body, (of which number the rector shall always be one,) together with the consent of both, the churchwardens, and in case there be no rector in the parish, then it shall be necessary to obtain the consent of the Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this state for the time being, previous to any sale, alienation or transfer, of any of the estates or property aforesaid.