

C H A P.
LVII.

appointment determine, and a new election of the said third part be had and held, in manner and form aforesaid, on the first Monday in the month of January in every year for ever, to the intent that no person or persons shall continue to be a trustee or trustees for any longer time than three years, without being re-elected, except the minister for the time being as aforesaid, but that the electors, qualified to vote as herein after is mentioned, described and directed, shall and may be at liberty to re-elect the same trustees, or any one or more of them, whose times shall expire on the day of the said annual election, whenever and so often as they shall think expedient; provided always, that whenever any circumstances, or concurrence of circumstances, shall prevent the holding of an election for trustees at the period above mentioned, then and in such case an election shall be held as soon as conveniently may be done in manner and form aforesaid, and that the remaining members of the said corporation, (whose time of service is unexpired,) shall have power to call a meeting of the electors of the said congregations for such purpose.

How vacancies are to be filled.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That whenever any vacancy shall happen by death, refusal to serve, or expulsion from membership, according to the discipline and rules of the said church, of any one or more of the said trustees, the said corporation shall have full power, at their discretion, to appoint the time and place for the purpose of electing a trustee or trustees, as the case may be, in their stead, and that the person or persons so elected shall be and continue in office so long as the person or persons would or might have continued, in order to keep up the number of nine elected trustees for ever; but before any of the aforesaid elections are held, public notice shall be given to the said congregations the preceding Sunday after divine service, and before the congregations are dismissed, or in any other convenient manner which the said corporation shall think expedient.

Persons entitled to vote, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That no person or persons shall be entitled to vote at an election for trustees who is or are not a regular male member or members, according to the rules and discipline of the said church, of at least twenty-one years of age, and of one year's standing as a member; and that no person or persons whatsoever may or shall be eligible as a member of the said corporation who is not, at the time of his election, a regular male member, according to the rules expressed in the form of discipline of the methodist episcopal church in America, of twenty-one years of age at least, and of two years standing as a member.

Lands, &c. vested, &c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all the lands and tenements, with their appertences, now vested in trustees for the use of the said churches, and all other property of the said church, shall be and are hereby absolutely and unconditionally vested in the said body corporate, and their successors, for ever; and the said corporation shall and they are hereby declared to be capable of bargaining and selling, leasing and conveying, any part of the said property, or any other property which may hereafter be acquired by the said corporation, in as full and effectual a manner as any person or body corporate may or can do.

Corporation may purchase property, &c.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said corporation shall be capable of purchasing hereafter real and personal property, not exceeding in value the sum of six thousand dollars current money of the United States.

Minister to be president, &c.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That at all meetings of the said corporation the minister for the time being shall be the president, and in case of the absence, removal or death, of the minister, the lay members of the corporation may appoint one of their own body president *pro tempore*, who, during such absence, or in the case of removal or death until the appointment of another minister, shall have all the authority and privileges of a president.

Acts, &c. to be signed, &c.

IX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all acts or deeds of the said corporation shall be signed by the president, in behalf of the corporation, and sealed with their corporate seal; and all deeds by them for the conveyance of any lands and tenements of the corporation, which by the law of the land ought to be acknowledged and recorded, shall be signed and sealed as aforesaid, and shall also be acknowledged in due form by the president, as such, in behalf of the corporation; and all acts or deeds of the said body corporate, so authenticated, shall be valid and effectual in law.

C H A P. LVIII.

An ACT for the improvement of the public roads in Kent county.

Passed 19th of Dec. 1800. Preamble.

WHEREAS the present law relating to the public roads in Kent county has been found to bear very unequally on the citizens thereof, and inadequate to the purposes for which it was intended; therefore,

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