

forever as a body corporate, by virtue of this act, shall be known and distinguished; which certificate being duly acknowledged or proved as aforesaid, shall be recorded by the Clerk of the Peace for the District, in a book to be by him provided as aforesaid; and such trustees and their successors shall therefore, by virtue of this act, be a body corporate by the name or title expressed in such certificate.

2d That the trustees of every church or congregation, herein above mentioned, and their successors, shall respectively have and use a common seal, and may renew and alter the same at their pleasure, and are hereby authorized and empowered to take into their possession and custody all the temporalities belonging to such church or congregation, whether the same consist of real or personal estate, and whether the same shall have been given, granted, or devised, directly to such church or congregation, or to any other person or persons for their use; and by their corporate name or title to sue and be sued in all courts of law or equity, and to recover, hold and enjoy all the debts, demands, rights and privileges, and all churches, chapels, school-houses, parsonages and burying places, with the appurtenances, and all estate belonging to such church or congregation, in whatsoever manner the same may have been acquired, or in whose name soever the same may be held, as fully and amply as if the right or title thereto had originally been vested in the said trustees; and also to purchase and hold other real and personal estate, and to devise, lease and improve the same, for the use of such church and congregation, or for other pious uses, so as the whole real and personal estate of any such church or congregation shall not exceed the annual value or income of one thousand pounds currency; and also to repair and alter their churches and meeting houses, and to erect others if necessary, and to erect dwelling houses for the use of their ministers, and school houses and other buildings for the use of such church or congregation; and such trustees shall also have power to make rules and orders for managing the temporal affairs of such church or congregation, and to dispose of all monies belonging thereto, and to regulate and order the renting the pews in their churches and meeting houses, and the perquisites for the breaking of the ground in the cemetery or church yards, and in the said churches and meeting houses for burying the dead, and all other matters relating to the temporal concerns and revenues of such church or congregation; and to

appoint a clerk and treasurer of their board, and a collector to collect and receive the said rents and revenues, and to regulate the fees to be allowed to such clerk, treasurer, and collector, and them or either of them to remove at pleasure, and appoint others in their stead; and such clerk shall enter all rules and orders made by such trustees, and payments ordered by them, in a book provided by them for that purpose.

3d. That the trustees first chosen, shall continue in office for three years from the day of their election, and immediately after such election the said trustees shall be divided by lot into three classes, numbered one, two, and three, and the seats of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first year, of the members of the second class at the expiration of the second year, and of the members of the third class at the expiration of the third year, to the end that the third part of the whole number of trustees, as nearly as possible, may be annually chosen; and the said trustees, or a majority of them shall, at least one month before the expiration of the office of any of the said trustees, notify the same in writing to the minister, or in the case of his death or absence, to the elders, specifying the names of the trustees whose times will expire, and the said minister, or in case of his death or absence, one of the said elders shall, in manner aforesaid, proceed to notify the members of the said church, or congregation, of such vacancies, and appoint the time and place for the election of new trustees to fill up the same, which election shall be held at least six days before such vacancies shall happen, and all such subsequent elections shall be held and conducted by the same persons, and in the manner hereinafter directed, and the result thereof certified by them, and such certificate shall entitle the persons elected to act as trustees, and in case any trustee shall die or refuse to act, or remove within the year, notice thereof shall be given by the trustees as aforesaid, and a new election appointed and held, and another trustee be elected in his stead, in manner as follows.

4th. That no person belonging to any church or congregation, intended by this act, shall be entitled to vote at any election, until he shall have been a stated attendant on Divine worship in the said church or congregation, at least one year before such election, and shall have contributed to the support of the said church or congregation, according to the