

Ordinances of the Lieutenant Governor and Council of His Majesty's Province of Cape Breton passed in the year 1791. National Archives of the United Kingdom CO 219/1.

31 George III – Chapter 1

An Ordinance for establishing of a Parish and the regulating of the Choice of Church Wardens and Vestrymen.

Whereas our most gracious Sovereign and the Parliament of Great Britain were pleased in their pious concern for the advancement of Gods Glory and the most decent Celebration of the Divine Ordinances in this Island to grant a sum of money towards erecting a Church for the religious Worship according to the usage of the Church of England.

And Whereas the said Monies so granted as aforesaid have been wholly expended in the Building of the walls, Completing the Roof, and Inclosing the said Church.

And whereas numbers of the Inhabitants have signed their willingness to erect pews, in the said Church at their own expence and to subscribe according to their Abilities towards the further Completing of the said Church as soon as they can be insured in the Enjoyment of the said Pews.

And Whereas it is found necessary in Order to answer the good purpose aforesaid and to encourage so laudable a disposition in the Inhabitants that a Parish should be Established and the Parishioners Authorized to choose annually the necessary Officers for having the care and Management of the said Church.

Be it therefore Ordained and Ordered by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor by and with the Advise and consent of His Majestys Council, and it is hereby Ordained and Ordered by the Authority of the same, That the Parish of the Church Known by the name of Saint Georges Church in the Town of Sydney shall Comprehend this Island and its Dependencies and shall hereafter be known and Called by the name of the Parish of Saint George for and during such time only as the said Island and its Dependencies shall consist of one Parish; and for the preservation of purity and Unity of Doctrine and Discipline in the said Church and the right Administration of the Sacraments therein, no Minister shall be admitted as a Minister of the said Church or as belonging thereto but such as shall produce to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being a Testimonial that he hath been regularly Ordained as a Minister of the Church of England, and shall publicly declare his assent and Consent to the Book of Common prayer and shall subscribe to be conformable to the Orders and Constitutions of the Church of England, and shall have been Inducted into the said Parish by the Governor Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being.

And be it further Ordained and Ordered by the Authority aforesaid that the Parishioners of the said Parish are hereby impowered to meet at the said Church in the Town of Sydney on Monday the Twenty fifth day of April next and shall then and there choose two persons from among the said Parishioners for Church Wardens, And Eight persons of the said Parishioners for Vestrymen, in

addition to which number the Minister belonging to the said Parish shall always be one of the Vestry; And the meeting of the Parishoners for the Choosing of Church Wardens and Vestrymen shall after the said Twenty fifth day of April next be annually on Easter Monday.

And be it further Ordained and Ordered by the Authority aforesaid; That the said Church Wardens and Vestrymen shall have full power and Authority when the plan for Compleating the inside of the said Church shall be fixed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to agree with such of the Parishoners as shall be desirous of building pews in the said Church upon such terms and Conditions as the said Church Wardens and Vestrymen or the Majority of them shall deem just and Equitable which Agreements so made by the said church Wardens and Vestry, shall be Valid and have their full force and effect in Law Provided always that such agreement or any Other Act done or Agreed upon to be done shall be agreed on by at least one of the said Church Wardens and five of the said Vestrymen.

And be it further Ordained and Ordered by the Authority aforesaid, that the said Church Wardens and Vestrymen may meet as often as the business of the said Church shall require and shall have full power and Authority to ask demand sue for and receive the rents that may become due from time to time for the pews of the said Church or other dues for the benefit and repair of the same, and to take and receive all Gifts of money to and for the use of the said Parish Church and to improve the same for the benefit and advantage thereof according to their best discretion and the true Interest and meaning of the Donors and shall at the expiration of their Office annually account with their successors for all the monies received by them for the use of the said Parish Church; or as having been the Church Wardens and Vestrymen thereof and pay the overplus (if any in their hands) of all such monies to their successors in Office for the uses and purposes aforesaid.

And be it further Ordained and Ordered by the Authority aforesaid, That every Church Warden and Vestryman to be chosen from time to time by virtue of this Ordinance shall produce to the Minister belonging to the said church a Certificate of his having taken the oath of Allegiance and Supremacy and Subscribed the declaration against Popery.

And be it further Ordained and Ordered by the Authority aforesaid that nothing in this Ordinance contained shall extend to or be construed to extend to or in any wise affect Dissenters from the Church of England of what denomination so ever in their mode of Worship in their meeting Houses for that purpose.

Approved Ordained and Ordered
in Council accordingly the thirtieth
day of March One Thousand seven
Hundred and Ninety One, And in the
Thirty first year of the Reign of
King George the third. –

(signed)

From: British North America Legislative Database; University of New Brunswick
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Wm. Macarmick

Passed in Council
the 30th day of March 1791.

(Copy)
Crawley Clerk of Council