

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Newfoundland, passed in the year 1858.

21 Victoria – Chapter 19

An act relating to the Wesleyan Methodists in this Colony, and for Incorporating a Conference of their Body. (Passed 10th May, 1858.)

Whereas a large number of Persons in the Colony of Newfoundland are associated together in Classes, Societies, and Congregations, constituting a Religious Community under the Pastoral care of Ministers of God's Word, who were heretofore in connexion with the Yearly Conference of the People called Methodists in England. And Whereas, by the authority of the said Conference, the Wesleyan Methodist Members in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Bermuda, and this Colony of Newfoundland, have been organized and constituted a Conference, Called by the name and style of "The Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church or Connexion in Eastern British America," which Conference is to have the Ecclesiastical control and oversight of the Wesleyan Methodist Churches, Societies and Congregations, in the said respective Provinces, according to the rules and usages of the Methodist Body. And Whereas it is desirable that the said Conference should be, known and recognised by law in this Colony, and have and enjoy a Corporate character and capacity.

I. Be it therefore Enacted by the Governor, Legislative Council and Assembly, that the said Conference so organised, and the Wesleyan Methodist Ministers who shall from time to time compose the same, and their successors in office, shall be a body corporate within this Colony, having perpetual succession by the name of "The Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church or Connexion in Eastern British America," and shall be known and recognised by law by such name.

II. The said Conference shall be capable of taking, holding, and possessing lands, tenements, monies and property, within this Colony, for the use and benefit of the Wesleyan Methodist Church Societies under its control, or in connexion therewith, or of any portion thereof, or for the establishment of any funds or institutions which are now or may be hereafter required for the purposes of the said Conference, or of any of the Churches, Societies or Bodies under their care or in connexion therewith; and shall have authority, from time to time, to make laws and regulations for the due management of the said Conference, and of such funds and institutions not at variance with the laws of this Colony, and of suing and being sued in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Law or Equity, and shall have and exercise all the rights, powers and privileges incident to a-body corporate, according to the laws of this Colony, any thing in the Statute of Mortmain or any other Acts or Statutes to the contrary notwithstanding.

III. Any appointment made, or other act done, or order, judgment, or resolution, of the said Conference, passed or determined at any meeting held at any place in either of the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, or Bermuda, shall be as binding and obligatory in this Colony as if done or passed within this Colony, when certified under the hand of the President and Secretary of the Conference or any persons acting in their stead.

IV. A copy of any such minutes of appointment, act done, order, judgment or resolution, certified and signed by the President or Acting President, Secretary or Acting Secretary, verified by an affidavit of a credible person that it was signed in his presence, or that being acquainted with the hand-writing of such President and Secretary, he verily believes the signature to be their proper hand-writing respectively, and also that the persons signing are the President and Secretary respectively, or were acting as such, shall be evidence of such appointment, act, order, judgment, or resolution, of the Conference, in any proceeding whatever, and in any Court in this Colony.

V. Affidavits may be Sworn before a Commissioner of the Supreme Court or a Justice of the Peace.