

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada, passed in the year 1851. York: Stewart Derbyshire and George Desbarts, 1851.

14 & 15 Victoria – Chapter 142

**An Act to incorporate the Benevolent Societies of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada.
30th August, 1851.**

Whereas it has been represented to the Legislature of this Province, that certain Ministers and Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, in connexion with the British Wesleyan Conference, have established themselves together under a constitution, intituled, “The Doctrines and Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada,” and certain other Rules and Regulations, creating and establishing “The Book and Printing Establishments,” and “The Annuitant Fund Society,” and “The Superannuated or worn-out Preachers’ Fund,” and have contributed, or engaged to contribute, considerable sums of money, and have given or granted, or promised to give or grant, lands or real estate for the following objects, that is to say:

Firstly. For the publication and circulation of periodicals and books for the diffusion of useful knowledge;

Secondly. For the support of aged and infirm Ministers, and the widows and children of Ministers;

And whereas it would tend to promote the purposes of the said Association that it should be incorporated, and empowered to hold property in mortmain without letters of license, and to manage, administer, alienate or dispose of the same for the uses and purposes aforesaid, and to make and enforce Rules and Regulations for the government of the said Association, and for better attaining the purposes aforesaid: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the Conference of the Ministers of the said Church, as described in a certain Act, passed in the fourth and fifth years of Her Majesty’s Reign, chapter thirty-seven, and intituled, *An Act to incorporate the Upper Canada Academy under the name and style of Victoria College*, namely: the Reverend Enoch Wood, President of the Conference, the Reverend John Ryerson, Co-Delegate, the Reverend James Musgrove, Secretary of the Conference, the Reverend Anson Green, Book Steward, the Reverend James Spencer, Editor, the Reverend Egerton Ryerson, D. D., President of Victoria College, the Reverend Henry Wilkinson, and such other persons as are now Members of the said Association, according to the existing Constitution, Rules and Regulations thereof, and their successors to be elected in the manner hereinafter provided, and such other persons as shall from time to time hereafter be elected to be Members of the said Association, to be also elected in the manner hereinafter provided, shall be and are hereby declared to be a Body Corporate and Politic in name and in deed, by the name of “The Connexional Society of the Wesleyan Methodist

Church in Canada and by such name they and their successors shall have perpetual succession and a Common Sea), and have and hold all such land as is now attached to or appropriated for the purposes of the said Act, and shall and may be capable of receiving and taking from Her Majesty, or from any other person or persons, or any body corporate or politic, by grant, devise or otherwise, any lands or interest in lands, or any goods, chattels, moneys or effects, which Her Majesty, or any such person or persons, body corporate or politic, may be desirous of granting or conveying to them or their successors in office, for the use and support of the said Association; and shall be capable of suing and being sued, impleading and being impleaded, for the purposes of the said Association.

II. And be it enacted, That all lands, messuages, tenements, hereditaments or immoveable property as aforesaid, and all sums of money, debts, goods, chattels, effects or moveable property, which have been, or shall hereafter be paid, given, granted, purchased, appropriated, devised or bequeathed in any manner or way whatsoever, to, for or in favor of the said Corporation, and for the uses and purposes aforesaid, shall be, and the same are hereby vested in the said Corporation to and for the uses aforesaid, in such manner and form, and subject to such By-laws and Regulations as may be made and passed by the said Corporation, concerning the same, in the manner hereinafter provided; and that the said Corporation or the Central Board, or such other Executive or Managing Committee thereof as shall from time to time be appointed and authorized for this purpose by the By-laws, Rules or Regulations which may be made and passed in the manner hereinafter mentioned, for the government of the said Corporation, shall have power and authority to alienate or exchange, and to demise, let and lease for any term of years, such messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments and immoveable property, as shall be so as aforesaid, given, granted, purchased, appropriated, devised or bequeathed to the said Corporation, for all or any of the purposes aforesaid, and to have, receive and take the purchase money, consideration or price, rents, issues or profits thereof: Provided always, that the said Corporation or Central Board thereof, or such other Executive or Managing Committee as aforesaid, shall have, receive, take and hold such purchase money, consideration or price, rents, issues or profits, for the uses and purposes hereinbefore mentioned and set forth, or some or one of them, and for no other.

III. And be it enacted, That the said Corporation shall and may, from time to time, hold assemblies and meetings of the said Corporation, which shall be called together in such manner, and at such times and places as shall be directed and appointed by the By-laws, Rules and Regulations of the same, and to transact the business of the said Corporation, and shall and may, at any such meeting elect such persons to be Members of the said Corporation as they, or the major part of them present, shall think fit: Provided always, that no act done in such Assembly or Meeting of the said Corporation shall be valid or effectual unless six persons of such Corporation, at least, shall be present, and the major part of them consenting thereto.

IV. And be it enacted, That the said Corporation, or the major part of those who shall be present at any Meeting of the said Corporation, to be held in the manner aforesaid, shall and may make and ordain any Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations whatsoever, which to them, or the major part of them then present, not being fewer in number than six, as aforesaid, shall seem

meet, reasonable or requisite, touching and concerning the well-ordering and governing of the affairs and business of the said Corporation, and the due administering and improving the property thereof, as aforesaid, and such Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations, in like manner, from time to time, to abrogate, repeal, change or alter, as may be found expedient, which Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations shall be binding upon and shall be observed, performed and kept by the Members of the said Corporation: Provided always, that the same shall not be repugnant or contrary to the aforesaid purposes of such Corporation, or to the laws in force in this Province: Provided also, that no such Constitution, By-law, Rule or Regulation, nor any abrogation, repeal, change or alteration of the same, shall be of any force or effect until it shall have been sanctioned and confirmed by the said Conference of the said Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada.

V. And be it enacted, That all Deeds of any Real Estate made and executed by or in favor of the said Corporation (except leases for a term not exceeding nine years) shall be duly registered according to law, within twelve calendar months after the making and execution thereof, otherwise the same shall be void and of no effect: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to give any greater effect in other respects to the registration of any such Deed, within the said term of twelve months, than is by law given to the registration of any other Deed of real estate in Upper Canada.

VI. And be it enacted, That the said Corporation shall not have, hold, possess or enjoy lands and tenements or real estate, in virtue of this Act, exceeding Five Thousand Pounds in annual value, at any time; and shall at all times, when called upon so to do by the Governor of this Province, render an account in writing of the property held by them under this Act, and of the income derived therefrom, and the means by which the same has been acquired.

VII. And be it enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, in any manner, to confer any Spiritual Jurisdiction or Ecclesiastical Rights whatsoever upon the said Corporation or their Successors, or upon the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada or the Ministers or Members thereof.

VIII. And be it enacted, That nothing herein contained shall affect, or be construed to affect, in any manner or way, the rights of Her Majesty, Her Heirs or Successors, or any person or persons, or of any body politic or corporate, such only excepted as are hereinafter mentioned and provided for.

IX. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be a Public Act.