

*Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada*, passed in the year 1856. Quebec: Stewart Derbyshire and George Desbarts, 1856.

20 Victoria – Chapter 141

**An Act to enable the Members of the United Church of England and Ireland in Canada to meet in Synod.**

Reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, 19th June, 1856.

The Royal Assent given by Her Majesty in Council on the 6th May, 1857; and Proclamation thereof made by His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Baronet, Governor General, in the Canada Gazette of the 28th May, 1857.

Whereas doubts exist whether the members of the United Church of England and Ireland in this Province have the power of regulating the affairs of their Church, in matters relating to discipline, and necessary to order and good government, and it is just that such doubts should be removed, in order that they may be permitted to exercise the same rights of self-government that are enjoyed by other religious communities: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:

I. The Bishops, Clergy and Laity, members of the United Church of England and Ireland in this Province, may meet in their several Dioceses, which are now, or may be hereafter constituted in this Province, and in such manner and by such proceedings as they shall adopt, frame constitutions and make regulations for enforcing discipline in the Church, for the appointment, deposition, deprivation, or removal of any person bearing office therein, of whatever order or degree, any rights of the Crown to the contrary notwithstanding, and for the convenient and orderly management of the property, affairs and interests of the Church in matters relating to and affecting only the said Church, and the officers and members thereof, and not in any manner interfering with the rights, privileges or interests of other religious communities, or of any person or persons not being a member or members of the said United Church of England and Ireland; Provided always that such constitutions and regulations shall apply only to the Diocese or Dioceses adopting the same.

II. The Bishops, Clergy and Laity, members of the United Church of England and Ireland in this Province, may meet in general Assembly within this Province, by such Representatives as shall be determined and declared by them in their several Dioceses; and in such general Assembly frame a Constitution and regulations for the general management and good government of the said Church in this Province; Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall authorize the imposition of any rate or tax upon any person or persons whomsoever, whether belonging to the said Church or not, or the infliction of any punishment, fine or penalty upon any person, other than his suspension or removal from an office in the said Church, or exclusion from the meetings or proceedings of the Diocesan or General Synods; And provided also, nothing in the said

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constitutions or regulations, or any of them, shall be contrary to any Law or Statute now or hereafter in force in this Province.