

CHAP. 87

An Act to incorporate The Free Methodist Church of the
Province of Quebec

[Assented to 28th March, 1901]

WHEREAS a petition has been presented by the mem- Preamble.
bers of the religious sect or society, composed of
ministers and laymen thereof, known and distinguished as
“Free Methodists,” representing that there is a numerous
body of Protestant Christians in the Province of Quebec
calling themselves “Free Methodists,” who desire to pos-
sess the privileges accorded to other religious denominations,
and praying that an act may be passed to incorporate the
members of such denomination now organized and possess-
ing church buildings, or that may hereafter be organized,
and to provide that the regularly ordained ministers of such
denomination, having a fixed and a permanent organization
as a congregation, or that become such, may keep registers
of all such baptisms, marriages and burials as shall by such
ministers be performed, and to enable the trustees of any
church organization or congregation of such denomination
to acquire and dispose of, to hypothecate and to administer
generally any lands or church buildings to such congrega-
tion belonging, for places of worship, or as parsonages, and
to vest in said trustees any legacy or donation that may
accrue to such church or congregation for church purposes
solely, with power to administer the same ; and whereas it
is expedient to grant that prayer :

Therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice and con-
sent of the Legislature of Quebec, enact as follows :

1. The ministers and members of the society, sect and Certain min-
isters, &c.,
incorporated.
denomination known and designated as “The Free Method-
ist Church,” now having a permanent organization and in
charge of regularly ordained ministers thereof, and estab-
lished in accordance with the rules of such society, are hereby
incorporated, and shall form a corporation or body corporate
and politic in this province, under the name and style of Name.
“The Free Methodist Church of the Province of Quebec,”
with power to make such rules and regulations for the man- Power to
make rules,
&c.
agement of their affairs and of their society as may be
necessary, not being contrary to nor inconsistent with the
laws of the Province.

Certain church buildings, &c., vested in congregations, erected into corporations.

2. The church buildings, parsonage, cemetery and grounds of each congregation of the said Free Methodist Church, having a permanent organization in charge of regularly ordained ministers of such denomination, shall be vested in any such congregation, and the administration thereof in a board of trustees chosen in accordance with the rules of such church, or of such congregation, as the case may be, and each such congregation shall be a body politic and corporate under the name and style of "The Free Methodist Church of the Province of Quebec at....."

Name.

Corporate powers of congregations.

3. Every such congregation under its corporate name, shall have perpetual succession and may acquire real or personal property by purchase, donation, or otherwise, provided the annual revenue thereof shall not exceed two thousand dollars, and hold and enjoy the same for church purposes only, and may alienate the same; enter into contracts, transact, bind and oblige itself and others to itself, within the limits of its functions; hypothecate, let or lease its property as may be necessary for the purposes of the church only; sue and be sued in any cause and before any court of justice; and do, perform and execute all and every lawful act and thing useful and necessary for the purpose aforesaid, and for the administration of its corporate affairs in as full and ample a manner, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, as any other body politic or corporate by law may do.

Formation of new congregations provided for.

4. Any new congregation may be formed after the passing of this act and become entitled to all its provisions, and be a corporate body, under the name and designation aforesaid, with the same privileges, rights and restrictions as these hereinbefore mentioned, provided that it shall be organized in accordance with the general rules of the denomination, and that its minister be installed or inducted in the charge thereof and a board of trustees elected or selected in conformity with the rules of such denomination.

Composition of the church incorporated by section 1.

5. The composition of the church as incorporated by section 1 of this act shall be made up of the respective congregations of the whole province, represented therein by their respective ministers and trustees in conformity with the rules and ordinances of the denomination now existing or which may hereafter be enacted, provided however, that any failure or neglect to organize the church for the whole province as before stated shall not have the effect of preventing any congregation established as a corporation under section 2 of this act, or to be established or formed under section 4 of this act, from having and maintaining its

corporate existence under section 2 and following sections, with all powers given to each such congregation and corporation by this act and under all the restrictions thereof and of the law.

6. From and after the passing of this act, the aforesaid corporations formed under section 2 of this act, shall be vested with all the property, real and personal, of each of such corporations, each congregation for itself, and of all the rights accrued thereto, and shall enter upon and possess the same in full right.

Vesting of certain property in congregations, formed under section 2.

7. Registers for the registration of baptisms, marriages and burials shall be kept by each church or congregation, and by the ministers thereof in conformity with the laws of this Province relating to acts of civil status; and the regularly ordained minister of any congregation of said church, or of any Free Methodist Church or body under the laws of the Free Methodist denomination, shall be entitled to keep such registers, provided that such or any minister of said denomination, before receiving a register or registers of such acts of civil status, shall furnish to the prothonotary of the Superior Court or any public officer authorized to furnish such registers by law, a certificate of his ordination, as such minister, and of his call, installation or induction into the charge of minister of any such congregation, by taking the oath of allegiance before a judge or commissioner of the Superior Court in the district wherein such congregation has its existence, and producing and filing with the prothonotary of such court, or the officer authorized to issue and grant such registers, a certificate of the taking of such oath, and by complying with the laws of this Province relating to the keeping of such acts of civil status, and the payment of the fees imposed by law.

Registers of civil status to be kept by ministers.

Proviso.

8. The register kept by any minister for the exclusive use of the church or congregation shall be regularly transmitted by him to his successor in office, and, upon the extinction of any congregation from any cause whatever, the said register shall be vested in the prothonotary of the Superior Court, provided, however, that should such congregation be re-formed such register shall be returned to the minister of such congregation by the said prothonotary.

Registers to be transmitted by minister to his successor in office, and vested in prothonotary if church closed, &c.

9. This act shall come into force on the day of its sanction.

Coming into force.
