

CAP. LV .

An act to incorporate the Universalist Church of the province of Quebec.

[Assented to 28th December, 1876.]

WHEREAS a petition has been presented by mem- Preamble.
bers of the religious sect or society, composed of ministers and laymen thereof, known and distinguished as the "Universalist Church or Society," representing that there is a numerous body of Protestant Christians in the province of Quebec calling themselves Universalists, who desire to possess the privileges accorded to other religious denominations, and praying that an act may be passed incorporating the members of said denomination now organized and possessing church buildings, or that may hereafter be organized, and to provide that the regular ordained ministers of said denomination having a fixed and a permanent organization as a congregation, or that may 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 said denomination to acquire and dispose of, to hypothecate and to administer generally any lands or church buildings to such congregation belonging, for places of worship or as parsonages, and to vest in said trustees any legacy or donation that may accrue to said church or congregation for church purposes solely, with power to administer the same; and whereas it is expedient to grant their prayer; Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislature of Quebec, enacts as follows:

1. The ministers and members of the society, sect and denomination known and designated as the Universalist Constituted corporation.
society, now having a permanent organization and in charge of regularly ordained ministers thereof, and established in accordance with the rules of said society, are hereby incorporated and shall form a corporation or body corporate and politic in this province under the name and style of "The Universalist Church of the province of Quebec," with power to make such rules and regulations for the management of their affairs and of their society as may be necessary; not being contrary to nor inconsistent with the laws of the province. Name, rules and regulations.

2. The church buildings, parsonage, cemetery, and Particular congregation.
grounds of each congregation of the said Universalist 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 said church, or of said congregation as the case may be, and each such congregation shall be a body corporate and politic under the name and style of "The Universalist Church of the province of Quebec at _____"

Corporate name.

General powers.

Limit of property.

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 per annum, 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 purposes of the church only, sue and be sued in any cause and before any court of justice; and to do, perform and execute all and every lawful act and thing useful and necessary for the purpose aforesaid, and for the administration of their 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.

New congregation and its rights.

Proviso.

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 to the rules of said denomination.

Composition of church.

Proviso

5. The composition of the church as incorporated by section one 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 number two of this act, or to be established or formed under section four of this act, from having and maintaining its corporate existence under said section two 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 two of this act, shall be vested with all the property real and personal of each of said corporations, each congregation for itself, and of all the rights accrued thereto, and shall enter upon and possess the same in full right.

Rights of particular corporation.

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 regular ordained minister of any congregation of said church, or of any Universalist church or body under the laws of the Universalist 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 said 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.

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.

Transmission of registers.

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

Act in force.