



CHAPTER lxxv.

An Act to authorise the union of the Methodist New Connexion the Bible Christians and the United Methodist Free Churches under the name of "The United Methodist Church" to deal with real and personal property belonging to the said churches or denominations to provide for the vesting of the said property in trust for the United Church so formed and for the assimilation of the trusts thereof and for other purposes. A.D. 1907.

[26th July 1907.]

WHEREAS in or about the year 1797 a body of persons formed themselves into a religious denomination or church under the name or title of "The Methodist New Connexion" whose constitution was declared by a deed poll dated the 8th day of June 1846 and enrolled in the High Court of Chancery on the 3rd day of September in the same year:

And whereas in or about the year 1815 certain persons united together for religious work and worship and the religious denomination thus formed became known as "the Bible Christians" and the constitution of the Bible Christians was declared by a certain deed poll dated the 8th day of August 1831 and enrolled in the High Court of Chancery on the 15th day of May 1832:

And whereas certain seceders from the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion and others formed themselves into a connexion of churches in the year 1836 adopting the title of "The Wesleyan Methodist Association" and the constitution of the Wesleyan Methodist Association was declared by a deed poll dated the 18th day of August 1840 and enrolled in the High Court of Chancery on the 15th day of February 1841:

And whereas the Wesleyan Methodist Association were subsequently in the year 1857 joined by other persons known by the

A.D. 1907. name of "Wesleyan Methodist Reformers" or other similar name whereupon the united body or association so formed took the name of "The United Methodist Free Churches":

And whereas certain alterations were duly made in the said deed poll of the Wesleyan Methodist Association and embodied in a supplementary deed dated the 28th day of July 1881 and enrolled in the central office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 5th day of May 1882:

And whereas certain further alterations were duly made in the said deed poll and set forth in a supplementary deed dated the 10th day of November 1890 and enrolled in the central office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 8th day of December in the same year:

And whereas the said churches or religious denominations or connexions or associations (in this Act referred to respectively as "the Methodist New Connexion Church" "the Bible Christian Church" and "the United Methodist Free Churches" and collectively as "the said churches or denominations") are formed into or arranged in circuits and districts and the government of each of the said churches or denominations is vested in an annual assembly or conference the meeting whereof ordinarily takes place in the month of June or July in every year:

And whereas the religious doctrines held by each of the said churches or denominations are in substance identical but their respective internal organisations differ in certain respects in relation to the constitution procedure and powers of their respective annual assemblies or conferences and otherwise:

And whereas divers churches chapels colleges schoolhouses schoolrooms printing and publishing offices (commonly and hereinafter called "bookrooms") dwelling-houses and other buildings lands tenements and hereditaments situate in various parts of the United Kingdom the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and also divers moneys funds stocks shares securities goods chattels and other personal estate and effects are held on various trusts for the use and benefit of the said churches or denominations respectively which trusts are similar in all essentials in the case of each of the said churches or denominations respectively though they differ to some extent in particulars relating to the administration and management of the respective trust properties:

And whereas the respective annual assemblies or conferences of the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church and the United Methodist Free Churches respectively

after mature consideration and prolonged negotiations and after ascertaining the wishes of the members of the said churches or denominations respectively through their respective circuit district and other meetings have by large majorities resolved that it is expedient that the said churches or denominations be united and form one denomination under the name of "The United Methodist Church" to comprise all the members of the said churches or denominations such union to be effected in such manner and under such constitution as is in this Act provided :

And whereas the said respective annual assemblies or conferences after the like consideration and negotiations and after ascertaining such wishes as aforesaid in like manner as aforesaid have by like majorities resolved that it is expedient that the said churches chapels colleges schoolhouses schoolrooms bookrooms dwelling-houses and other buildings lands tenements and hereditaments and the said moneys funds stocks shares securities goods chattels and other personal estate and effects now held in trust for the use and benefit of the said churches or denominations respectively should after the union thereof and the formation of such one denomination as aforesaid be held in trust for the use and benefit of such one denomination nevertheless upon trusts and for purposes and objects the same as or similar to those upon and for which the same were respectively previously held for the benefit of the said churches or denominations respectively :

And whereas the said respective annual assemblies or conferences after the like deliberation and negotiations and after ascertaining such wishes as aforesaid in like manner as aforesaid have by the like majorities resolved that it is expedient that all such of the said buildings lands tenements and hereditaments as are now held and also all such buildings lands tenements and hereditaments as may after the date of the passing of this Act be purchased given or otherwise acquired by or on behalf of the said churches or denominations respectively or the United Methodist Church upon trusts for or for the purposes of or in connexion with any church or chapel or any vestry minister's or other dwelling-house schoolroom lecture hall mission room or other building or burial ground in connexion with such church or chapel should be held as far as may be upon trusts and with and subject to powers and provisions of an uniform character and that such provision in that behalf as in this Act is contained should be made :

And whereas it is expedient that such provision should be made as in this Act is contained with respect to buildings at

A.D. 1907. the date of union belonging to any of the said churches or denominations and registered as places of worship and for the solemnisation of marriages :

And whereas the purposes of this Act cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament :

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows (that is to say):—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the United Methodist Church Act 1907.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction—

The expression "the Methodist New Connexion Church" means the denomination church or connexion commonly described by that name founded in or about the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven and the constitution whereof is declared by the said deed poll of the eighth day of June one thousand eight hundred and forty-six and the members of that denomination church or connexion ;

The expression "the Bible Christian Church" means the denomination church or connexion commonly described by that name or by the name of "Bible Christians" founded in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifteen and the constitution whereof is declared by the said deed poll of the eighth day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one and the members of that denomination church or connexion ;

The expression "the United Methodist Free Churches" means the denomination church or connexion commonly described by that name established in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven under that designation upon the amalgamation of the Wesleyan Methodist Association with the Wesleyan Methodist Reformers and others and the constitution whereof is declared by the said deed poll of the eighteenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and forty as amended by the said deeds of the twenty-eighth day of July one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one and

the tenth day of November one thousand eight hundred and ninety and the members of the said denomination church or connexion ; A.D. 1907.

The expression "the said churches or denominations" means collectively the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church and the United Methodist Free Churches ;

The expression "the United Methodist Church" means the united church or denomination formed under the provisions of this Act by the union thereunder of the said churches or denominations and the members of the said united church or denomination ;

The expression "church lands" includes all lands tenements and hereditaments of whatever tenure and chattels real which now are or which may at any time hereafter be held in trust for or on behalf of or in connexion with or for any of the purposes of the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church or the United Methodist Free Churches or any constituent part of any of the said churches or denominations as the case may be or for or on behalf of any society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary to any of the said churches or denominations (including all lands tenements and hereditaments and chattels real at the date of union held or occupied by any person in trust for or on behalf of or in connexion with or for any of the purposes of any of the said churches or denominations or for any purpose of any society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary to such church or denomination notwithstanding that such church or denomination society institution or charity is not named or referred to in any declaration of trust or other instrument relating to such last-mentioned lands tenements or hereditaments or chattels real) together with all churches chapels colleges school-houses schoolrooms bookrooms dwelling-houses or other buildings thereon and also all fixtures and fittings rights easements and appurtenances whatsoever relating thereto respectively or enjoyed and held therewith ;

The expression "bookrooms" includes any printing or publishing offices carried on by or on behalf of or in connexion with any of the said churches or denominations ;

The expression "the central office" means the central office of the Supreme Court of Judicature ;

A.D. 1907.

The expression "the date of union" means the date on and from which the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church and the United Methodist Free Churches respectively shall become by virtue of this Act united in one denomination under the name of "the United Methodist Church";

The expression "Registrar-General" in the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is "Provisions as to buildings certified as places of religious worship and registered for solemnisation of marriages" shall mean Registrar-General in England;

The expression "Registrar-General" in the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is "Extent of Act" shall mean Registrar-General of the Isle of Man.

Power for
general
assemblies to
unite as one
United Con-
ference.

3. In the event of the respective annual assemblies or conferences of the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church and the United Methodist Free Churches respectively holden in the year one thousand nine hundred and seven determining by resolution passed either before or after the passing of this Act to adjourn their meetings at the conclusion of their respective ordinary business to one and the same day in the months of August September or October in the year one thousand nine hundred and seven and one and the same place such day and place respectively to be appointed by such resolutions such meetings respectively shall by virtue of this Act be adjourned to such day and place as aforesaid pursuant to such resolutions and it shall be lawful for the said assemblies or conferences when assembled at such adjourned meetings to unite and sit together as one United Conference (in this Act hereafter referred to as "the United Conference") and to continue their united sittings for such period with power to adjourn the same from time to time and to continue any adjourned sitting for such period as the business to be transacted by the United Conference shall require.

President
and secretary
of United
Conference.

4. The United Conference shall be opened and (until the election of a president thereof as herein-after is provided) presided over by the senior in age there present and willing to act of the presidents of the said respective annual assemblies or conferences of the said churches or denominations holden in the year one thousand nine hundred and seven and in the event of none of such presidents being present and willing to act then by any member of the United Conference elected for that purpose. The United Conference shall then proceed forthwith before the

consideration of any other business to the election by ballot of a president and secretary thereof who shall be respectively chosen from among the members of the United Conference by a majority of the members thereof present and voting at such election. In the event of the absence death resignation or incapacity of the president or secretary of the United Conference another person shall be forthwith chosen if the United Conference shall be sitting at the time of such death resignation or incapacity as aforesaid occurring in manner herein-before provided or in the event of the same occurring while the United Conference is not sitting then by any committee of the United Methodist Church which shall be empowered in that behalf by the United Conference.

A.D. 1907.

5.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act the procedure of and conduct of business by the United Conference shall be regulated by the rules of procedure and the regulations for the conduct of business which previously governed the annual assembly or conference of that one of the said churches or denominations of which the first elected president of the United Conference shall have been a member so far as such regulations shall be applicable.

Procedure of United Conference.

(2) The declaration of the president of the United Conference shall be conclusive evidence as to the numbers voting respectively for and against any resolution submitted to the United Conference and shall not be questioned by any person or in any manner.

6. It shall be lawful for the United Conference by resolution carried by the votes of not less than three fourths of the respective representatives of each of the said churches or denominations present at the United Conference and voting upon the said resolution (the representatives of each of the said churches or denominations voting first separately and then as one body) to declare that the said churches or denominations shall be united in and form one united church or denomination under the name of "The United Methodist Church" and under such constitution and upon such terms and conditions as may be declared and defined in a deed poll of foundation to be settled and adopted by the United Conference as in this Act provided.

Power for United Conference to resolve on union of churches in one denomination.

7. It shall be lawful for the United Conference by resolution carried by the votes of not less than three fourths of the respective representatives of each of the said churches or denominations present at the United Conference and voting upon the said resolution (the representatives of each of the said churches or

Power for United Conference to adopt a deed poll of foundation.

A.D. 1907. denominations voting first separately and then as one body) to settle and adopt a deed poll of foundation (herein-after referred to as "the deed poll of foundation") declaring and defining the constitution and doctrinal tenets of the said united church or denomination under the name of "The United Methodist Church" and the terms and conditions of such union as aforesaid and containing all such provisions as to the election powers duties and privileges of the conference of the United Methodist Church and all such other provisions (including powers from time to time to alter amend or repeal any of the provisions of the deed poll of foundation or of the constitution of the United Methodist Church as declared and defined thereby and to adopt any new provisions with respect to any matter to which the deed poll of foundation relates or to the constitution of the United Methodist Church) as in the judgment of the United Conference may be necessary or desirable for the government and discipline of the United Methodist Church and the management and administration of the affairs thereof After any such alteration amendment or repeal or the adoption of any such new provision as aforesaid reference to the deed poll of foundation in any document (whether executed before or after any such alteration amendment or repeal or the adoption of any such new provision as aforesaid) or in this Act shall be construed and take effect as reference to the deed poll of foundation as modified or added to by any such alteration amendment repeal or new provision.

Deed poll of foundation to be executed and enrolled in central office.

8. The deed poll of foundation when the same has been adopted by such resolution of the United Conference as aforesaid shall be forthwith signed sealed and delivered by the president for the time being of the United Conference and by any of the presidents elected in the year one thousand nine hundred and seven of the said respective annual assemblies or conferences of the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church and the United Methodist Free Churches who may be present at the united conference and be willing to execute the deed poll of foundation and the same shall within three months thereafter be enrolled in the central office.

Upon enrolment of deed poll of foundation several denominations to be united in one denomination by name

9. On and from the date of the enrolment of the said deed poll of foundation in the central office the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church and the United Methodist Free Churches shall by virtue of this Act become and be united in and form one united church or denomination under the name of

“The United Methodist Church” and under the constitution terms conditions and provisions defined and declared in the said deed poll of foundation.

A.D. 1907.
of United
Methodist
Church.

10. Until the meeting of the first annual conference of the United Methodist Church in the year one thousand nine hundred and eight the United Conference shall have and may exercise all powers rights authorities and discretions and shall discharge all duties vested in or imposed upon the annual conference of the United Methodist Church under or by virtue of the constitution thereof as declared and defined by the deed poll of foundation and all elections appointments or admissions to any office or position all resolutions orders or directions and all acts or things held made taking place passed given or done by or under the United Conference or under the authority of the same in the exercise or performance of any such power right authority discretion or duty as aforesaid whether before or after the date of union shall be valid or effective for all purposes whatsoever and shall be deemed to have been held or made or to have taken place or to have been passed given or done by or under the annual conference of the United Methodist Church or under the authority of the same.

United Con-
ference to
exercise
powers of
annual con-
ference of
United
Methodist
Church.

11. Except as in this Act otherwise provided on and after the date of union all church lands of the Methodist New Connexion Church whether held upon the trusts of the Methodist New Connexion Church model deed dated the twenty-ninth day of December one thousand eight hundred and forty-six and enrolled in the High Court of Chancery on the fourth day of January one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven or upon the trusts of or in conformity with the said deed poll of the eighth day of June one thousand eight hundred and forty-six or otherwise howsoever and all church lands of the Bible Christian Church whether held upon the trusts of the Bible Christian Church model deed dated the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three and enrolled in the High Court of Chancery on the twelfth day of February one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four or upon the trusts of or in conformity with the said deed poll of the eighth day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one or otherwise howsoever and all church lands of the United Methodist Free Churches whether held upon the trusts of the model deed dated the twenty-seventh day of January one thousand eight hundred and forty-two and enrolled in the High Court of Chancery on the fourth day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty-two or

Church lands
to be held in
trust for
United
Methodist
Church.

A.D. 1907. the deed of reference of the United Methodist Free Churches of the first day of November one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five and enrolled in the High Court of Chancery on the tenth day of November one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five or upon the trusts of or in conformity with the provisions of the said respective deeds poll of the eighteenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and forty the twenty-eighth day of July one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one and the tenth day of November one thousand eight hundred and ninety or any of such respective deeds poll or otherwise howsoever shall as from the date of union be held in trust for or for the purposes of the United Methodist Church under the constitution declared and defined in the deed poll of foundation or for or for the purposes of the society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary to the United Methodist Church corresponding to any society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary to any of the said churches or denominations for or for the purposes of which such church lands were previously held and as if the words "United Methodist Church" were substituted for any words referring to or describing the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church or the United Methodist Free Churches or any of the several bodies which have become merged or united in the last-mentioned church or denomination wherever such words occur in any declaration of trust or other instrument relating to any of such church lands but in other respects upon the existing trusts and with and subject to the existing powers and provisions upon and with and subject to which the same were held at the date of union so far as circumstances will permit but subject and without prejudice to any mortgage charge incumbrance lien lease or agreement at the date of union affecting the same respectively.

Power for
United Con-
ference to
adopt new
model deed.

12. It shall be lawful for the United Conference by resolution carried by the votes of not less than three fourths of the representatives of each of the said churches or denominations respectively present at the United Conference and voting upon the said resolution (the representatives of each of the said churches or denominations voting first separately and then as one body) to settle and adopt a form of model trust deed for the settlement by reference of any church lands which shall by virtue of the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is "Church lands to be held in trust for United Methodist Church" be held or any buildings lands tenements or hereditaments which shall at any time after the date of union be acquired by or on behalf

of or in connexion with the United Methodist Church or any congregation of members thereof upon trusts for or for the purposes of or in connexion with any church or chapel or any vestry minister's or other dwelling-house schoolroom lecture hall mission room or other building or burial ground in connexion with any such church or chapel and as soon as any trust deed shall have been completed and executed in accordance with the form so settled and adopted such trust deed (herein-after referred to as "the new model deed") shall be forthwith enrolled in the central office.

13. At any time after the date of union and from time to time it shall be lawful for the annual conference of the United Methodist Church by resolution carried in one year by the votes of not less than three fourths of the members of the annual conference of that year present and voting upon such resolution and confirmed in the next subsequent year by a resolution of the annual conference of that year similarly carried to alter amend or repeal any of the provisions of the new model deed and to adopt any new provisions with respect to any matters to which the new model deed relates. Such alterations amendments repeals or new provisions or any of them may at any time and from time to time if the annual conference shall so determine be embodied in a deed poll under the hand and seal of the president for the time being of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church and any such deed poll shall within three months after execution be enrolled in the central office. Every such alteration amendment repeal and new provision as aforesaid shall have effect and be binding on the United Methodist Church as from the date of the confirmatory resolutions in this section mentioned and thereafter the new model deed and all and any the trusts and provisions therein contained shall be construed and take effect as modified or added to by such alteration amendment repeal or new provision as aforesaid and reference in any document (whether executed before or after the said date) to the new model deed shall be construed and take effect as reference to the new model deed as modified or added to by such alteration amendment repeal or new provision.

Power to alter model deed.

14.—(1) If at any time after the enrolment of the new model deed in the central office the trustees of any of such church lands as are referred to in the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is "Power for United Conference to adopt new model deed" or a majority of them with the concurrence of the members

Power for trustees of church lands to adopt new model deed.

A.D. 1907. (if any) of the United Methodist Church occupying or using the same shall be desirous that such church lands shall be held upon the trusts declared by the new model deed and by any such alteration amendment repeal or new provision as aforesaid (if any) then made or adopted or thereafter to be made or adopted (as the case may be) instead of the trusts upon which the same shall have been previously held it shall be lawful for such trustees or a majority of them to execute and transmit to the president for the time being of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church (elected pursuant to the deed poll of foundation) a declaration in the form contained in the schedule to this Act and thereupon such church lands shall thenceforth be and be deemed to be held upon and with and subject to the trusts powers and provisions declared and contained in the new model deed and in any such alteration amendment repeal or new provision as aforesaid (if any) then made or adopted or thereafter to be made or adopted (as the case may be) instead of the trusts powers and provisions upon and with and subject to which the same were previously held subject nevertheless and without prejudice to all (if any) mortgages charges incumbrances liens or leases or agreements at the date of such declaration as aforesaid affecting the same respectively The concurrence of the members as aforesaid shall be evidenced by a resolution carried by the votes of the majority of such members present and voting at a meeting to be called by or on behalf of the said trustees by notice given at one at least of the public services held in any building situate on such church lands in which public religious services are held on the two successive Sundays immediately preceding the meeting of the time and place and purposes of such meeting and a declaration in the minutes of such meeting signed by the chairman thereof that such resolution has been passed shall be conclusive evidence of the passing of the same and shall not be questioned by any person or in any manner.

(2) For the purposes of this section the president for the time being of the United Conference shall be deemed to be the president of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church.

Personal property of uniting denominations to be held in trust for United Methodist Church.

15. All personal property (other than chattels real or the several funds mentioned in the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is "As to certain superannuation and other funds") at the date of union belonging to or held in trust for or on behalf of or in connexion with or for any of the purposes of the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church

or the United Methodist Free Churches respectively or for or for A.D. 1907.
 the purposes of any society institution or charity subsidiary or
 ancillary to any of the said churches or denominations shall as
 from that date be deemed to belong to or to be held in trust
 for or for the purposes of the United Methodist Church or the
 corresponding society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary
 to the United Methodist Church nevertheless in other respects
 upon the same trusts and with and subject to the same powers and
 provisions as those upon with and subject to which the same were
 previously held so far as circumstances will permit.

16. Subject as in this section provided the trustees for the As to certain
superannua-
tion and other
funds.
 time being of or other the persons having for the time being
 the legal control of or power of disposition over the respective
 funds following (namely):—

- (1) The Annuity and Auxiliary Funds of the Methodist New
 Connexion Beneficent Society ;
- (2) The Annuitants' Home Furnishing Fund of the Methodist
 New Connexion ;
- (3) The funds of the Bible Christian Preachers' Annuitant
 Society ;
- (4) The Superannuation and Beneficent Annuity Fund and
 the Superannuation and Beneficent Auxiliary Fund of
 the United Methodist Free Churches ;
- (5) And all other funds (if any) whether created before or
 after the passing of this Act applicable for the benefit
 of retired or superannuated ministers or the widow or
 children of a deceased minister of any of the said
 churches or denominations ;

shall from and after the date of union continue to hold and
 apply or permit to be applied the said respective funds in
 accordance with the trusts and for the benefit of the members
 and other persons in accordance with which and for the benefit
 of whom the same shall be held and be applicable at the
 date of union Provided that it shall be lawful for the trustees
 for the time being of or other the persons having for the
 time being the legal control of or power of disposition over
 any of the said respective funds at any time after the date of
 union to enter into and carry into effect upon such terms and
 conditions and in such manner generally as the said trustees or
 other persons may think proper and as may be approved by the
 annual conference of the United Methodist Church any agreement

A.D. 1907. or arrangement for the amalgamation of such fund with and the transfer thereof to the trustees for the time being of any superannuation or beneficent fund of or in connexion with the United Methodist Church which may be instituted at any time after the date of union and from and after such transfer as aforesaid the trustees or other persons by whom the same is made shall by virtue of this Act be released and discharged from all claims demands actions and proceedings in respect of the said fund and the trusts thereof or in respect of any sale investment or transposition of investment payment or other dealing or anything done or omitted by them in respect thereof or otherwise howsoever in relation thereto.

Gifts to uniting churches or denominations to take effect in favour of United Methodist Church.

17.—(1) Any bequest contained in the will of any person living at the date of union in favour of or directed to be administered by or in connexion with any of the said churches or denominations or a charity subsidiary or ancillary to any of the said churches or denominations shall take effect in favour of or be administered by or in connexion with the United Methodist Church or (as the case may be) the corresponding charity or charities subsidiary or ancillary to the United Methodist Church and shall be held by the trustees for the time being thereof upon with and subject to such trusts powers and provisions as are by such will expressed concerning the same save and except that in any case in which a power or discretion shall be by such will reposed in any officer or officers body or bodies of or connected with any of the said churches or denominations such power and discretion shall be and be considered as having been conferred upon and reposed in and shall be exerciseable by the annual conference of the United Methodist Church or any committee of the said conference or any officer or officers of the United Methodist Church to whom the conference shall delegate the same save and except also that in any case in which a person or persons or a class or classes of persons or an institution or institutions society or societies charity or charities fund or funds standing in any relation to any of the said churches or denominations shall be an object or objects named or designated in the said bequest the object or objects of the same bequest shall be a person or persons or a class or classes of persons or an institution or institutions society or societies charity or charities fund or funds standing in a similar relation to the United Methodist Church generally.

(2) In and for the purposes of this section the expression "will" shall include a codicil.

18.—(1) In any case where by the will of any person whether having died before or dying after the passing of this Act any bequest has been or shall be made in favour of or directed to be administered by or in connexion with any of the said churches or denominations or a charity subsidiary or ancillary to any of the said churches or denominations and the legal personal representatives of such person or any trustees in whom such bequest is vested are unable for any reason to obtain the receipt for such bequest of any person whose receipt is an effectual discharge for the same the receipt of the treasurer for the time being of the United Methodist Church or of the secretary for the time being of the annual conference of that Church shall be an effectual discharge to such legal personal representatives or trustees as aforesaid (as the case may be) and shall exonerate them from being concerned to see to the application of such bequest and from being answerable for the misapplication or non-application thereof.

A.D. 1907.
Receipt by
treasurer or
secretary a
discharge in
certain cases.

(2) In and for the purposes of this section the expression "will" shall include codicil.

19. All actions and all proceedings of every description by or on behalf of or against the United Methodist Church may be commenced raised and carried on in the names of the president and secretary for the time being of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church as the nominal plaintiffs prosecutors or defendants (as the case may be) for and on behalf of the United Methodist Church and in all actions or proceedings the property of the United Methodist Church may be stated to be the property of the said president and secretary and generally in every such proceeding as aforesaid it shall be lawful and sufficient to state and to use the name of such president and secretary for and on behalf of the United Methodist Church and the death resignation removal or incapacity of or any act or thing done or suffered by such president or secretary shall not abate or affect any action or other proceeding conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Power to sue
and be sued
in name of
president and
secretary of
conference
of United
Methodist
Church.

20. In all cases where it may be necessary to serve any notice writ or other legal proceeding on the United Methodist Church in any action or process which may be instituted or raised against the United Methodist Church service thereof respectively on the president or secretary for the time being of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church either personally or by leaving the same at his last known place of abode shall

Service of
process on
United
Methodist
Church.

A.D. 1907. be deemed good service of the same on the United Methodist Church.

Affidavits &c. may be made by president and secretary.

21. Any affidavit statutory or other declaration or any answer or other similar document required from or by the United Methodist Church may be made and verified by the president and secretary for the time being of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church for and on behalf of the United Methodist Church.

President and secretary to be indemnified.

22. Every president and secretary for the time being of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church in whose name any such action or proceeding as aforesaid shall have been commenced or carried on shall be reimbursed and fully indemnified out of the funds of the United Methodist Church for all loss damages costs and expenses which he may sustain or be put to by reason or in consequence of any action or proceeding commenced or carried on by or against them as the nominal plaintiffs prosecutors or defendants for and on behalf of the United Methodist Church.

President and secretary of United Conference deemed for certain purposes president and secretary of conference of United Methodist Church.

23. For the purposes of the sections of this Act the respective marginal notes whereof are "Power to sue and be sued in name of president and secretary of conference of United Methodist Church" "Service of process on United Methodist Church" "Affidavits &c. may be made by president and secretary" and "President and secretary to be indemnified" the president and secretary for the time being of the United Conference shall respectively be deemed to be the president and secretary of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church.

Act not to impose liability upon United Methodist Church in respect of incumbrances.

24. Except where in this Act expressly provided nothing in this Act contained shall render the United Methodist Church subject to any liability or responsibility either directly or by way of indemnity or otherwise for or in respect of any mortgages charges liens encumbrances or obligations created or contracted in respect of any church lands or church property or shall relieve any property or any person from any liability or responsibility to which they would be otherwise subject in respect of any such mortgage charge lien encumbrance or obligation.

Trustees' indemnity preserved.

25. Nothing in this Act contained shall deprive any trustee of church lands or of church property of any rights which but for this Act he would have to be indemnified out of such lands or property in respect of any mortgage charge lien encumbrance or obligation in respect of which he shall have become personally liable.

26. A document whether written or printed purporting to be a copy of the deed poll of foundation or of the new model deed or of any resolution of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church making or adopting or of any deed poll embodying any alteration amendment or repeal of the provisions of the deed poll of foundation or of the new model deed or any new provisions with respect to any matters to which the deed poll of foundation or the new model deed relate or to the constitution of the United Methodist Church and to be signed by the president for the time being of the United Conference or of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church shall be deemed to be a true copy of such deed poll of foundation or new model deed or resolution or deed poll (as the case may be) and shall be received in evidence in all courts and in all proceedings whether civil or criminal as if it were the original document unless some variation between it and the original document shall be proved.

A.D. 1907.
Copies of
certain docu-
ments to be
evidence.

27.—(1) Every building which shall have been certified and recorded on behalf of any congregation of members of the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church the United Methodist Free Churches or any body or denomination which has since become merged or united in the United Methodist Free Churches as a place of meeting for religious worship under the provisions of the Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 or any Act repealed by that Act and the record of the certification whereof has not at the date of union been cancelled under the provisions in that behalf contained in that Act shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed to have been certified and recorded on behalf of a congregation of members of the United Methodist Church. The secretary of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church shall as soon as may be after the date of union transmit to the Registrar-General a list of all buildings to which this subsection applies signed by the president and secretary for the time being of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church and the Registrar-General shall in the first available list made out and printed by him pursuant to section seven of the said Act unless after the date of union and the transmission of such list as aforesaid the record of the certification of any such building has in the meantime been so cancelled as aforesaid state with respect to every such building that the United Methodist Church is the religious denomination to which the persons for the time being certifying every such building belong.

Provisions
as to build-
ings certified
as places of
religious
worship and
registered for
solemnisa-
tion of mar-
riages.

A.D. 1907.

(2) Every building which shall have been registered on behalf of any congregation of members of the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church the United Methodist Free Churches or any body or denomination which has since become merged or united in the United Methodist Free Churches for the solemnisation of marriages therein pursuant to the provisions of the Marriage Act 1836 and the registry whereof shall not at the date of union have been cancelled pursuant to section nineteen of that Act shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed to have been so registered on behalf of a congregation of members of the United Methodist Church. The secretary of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church shall as soon as may be after the date of union transmit to the Registrar-General a list of all buildings to which this subsection applies signed by the president and secretary for the time being of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church and the Registrar-General shall in the list of places of public worship registered under the provisions of the said Act made out and printed by him pursuant to section thirty-four of the said Act in the earliest year possible after the date of union and the transmission of such list as aforesaid unless in the meantime the registry of any such building shall have been cancelled pursuant to section nineteen of the said Act state with respect to every such building that such building is registered on behalf of a congregation of members of the United Methodist Church.

(3) The Registrar-General may after comparing the lists signed by the president and secretary for the time being of the annual conference with the records in his official register and after consultation with the said president and secretary make any correction therein that may be found necessary.

(4) For the purposes of this section the president and secretary for the time being of the United Conference shall respectively be deemed to be president and secretary of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church.

(5) The Registrar-General shall accept as sufficient evidence of the date of union being past the production of the original as enrolled or an office copy of the enrolment of the deed poll of foundation.

Union not to work a dissolution or extinction of conferences

28. The union of the said churches or denominations pursuant to the provisions of this Act in that behalf in one united church or denomination under the name of the United Methodist Church

shall not nor shall anything in this Act contained nor shall any act or thing done or suffered by any of the said churches or denominations pursuant to this Act be deemed to be or operate as either—

A.D. 1907.
—
or assemblies
of uniting
churches or
denomina-
tions.

(A) In the case of the Methodist New Connexion Church a ceasing or extinction of the conference of the Methodists of the New Connexion within the meaning of the provisions in that behalf contained in the said deed poll of the eighth day of June one thousand eight hundred and forty-six; or

(B) In the case of the Bible Christian Church a dissolution or coming to nothing of the Bible Christian conference within the meaning of the provisions in that behalf contained in the said deed poll of the eighth day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one; or

(C) In the case of the United Methodist Free Churches an extinction of the annual assembly of the Wesleyan Methodist Association within the meaning of the provisions in that behalf contained in the said deed poll of the eighteenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and forty.

29. Nothing in this Act shall take away abridge or affect any power or jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners or Board of Education who may deal with modify or vary any of the provisions of this Act relating to or affecting any charity (educational or otherwise as the case may be) whether already dealt with by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners or Board of Education or not by a scheme in the exercise of their ordinary jurisdiction as if those provisions had been contained in a scheme of the Charity Commissioners or so far as they affect educational charities of the Board of Education Provided that nothing in this section contained shall take away abridge or affect any exemption from the operation of the Charitable Trusts Acts 1853 to 1894 conferred upon any charity by the said Acts or by any of them.

Schemes.

30. The United Methodist Church may by a resolution of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church carried and confirmed as herein-after is provided unite or amalgamate with any church or religious body or association upon such terms and conditions as the United Methodist Church by a resolution carried and confirmed as herein-after is provided of the said annual conference may determine Provided always that the power conferred by this section shall not be exercised except

Power to
unite with
other re-
ligious
bodies.

A.D. 1907. subject to and in conformity with such provisions (if any) relating to such union or amalgamation as aforesaid as shall be contained in the deed poll of foundation or in any alteration or amendment thereof made or new provisions adopted under any power in that behalf contained in the deed poll of foundation. Provided also that notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained in the deed poll of foundation or in any such alteration amendment or new provision as aforesaid every resolution to which this present section refers shall be carried in one year by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the members of the annual conference of that year present and voting upon such resolution and confirmed in the next subsequent year by a resolution of the annual conference of that year similarly carried.

Extent of Act.

31.—(1) This Act shall extend to the United Kingdom the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Provided always that as regards the Island of Jersey subsection two of this section shall apply and that as regards the Isle of Man subsection three of this section shall be substituted for subsection two of the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is "Provisions as to buildings certified as places of religious worship and registered for solemnisation of marriages."

(2) The transfer of any church lands now held in trust in the Island of Jersey by the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church or the United Methodist Free Churches to the United Methodist Church shall be effected subject to the provisions of the law relating to trusts passed by the States of Jersey on the twenty-fourth day of September one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one and confirmed by Order in Council of the twenty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two and such church lands shall be held by the said United Methodist Church subject to the provisions of the said law.

(3) Every building which shall have been registered on behalf of any congregation of members of the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church the United Methodist Free Churches or any body or denomination which has since become merged or united in the United Methodist Free Churches for the solemnisation of marriages therein pursuant to the provisions of an Act of the Isle of Man Legislature passed in the eleventh year of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria intituled "An Act to provide for the solemnisation of marriages of persons who object to and decline the offices of the Established Church in this island" and the registry whereof shall not at the date of union have

been cancelled pursuant to section two of the said Act shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed to have been so registered on behalf of a congregation of members of the United Methodist Church. The secretary of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church shall as soon as may be after the date of union transmit to the Registrar-General a list of all buildings to which this subsection applies signed by the president and secretary for the time being of the annual conference of the United Methodist Church and the Registrar-General shall then in the book kept under the provisions of the said Act enter such buildings as registered on behalf of a congregation of members of the United Methodist Church and shall issue a certificate of such registration and advertise the same and there shall be payable the same fee as provided in the said Act. A.D. 1907

32. All costs charges and expenses of and incident to the preparing for obtaining and passing of this Act or otherwise in relation thereto shall be borne and paid as to one third part thereof by and out of the general funds of the Methodist New Connexion Church as to one other third part thereof by and out of the general funds of the Bible Christian Church and as to the remaining one third part thereof by and out of the general funds of the United Methodist Free Churches. Costs of Act.

A.D. 1907.

The SCHEDULE referred to in the foregoing Act.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ACT 1907.

IN REFERENCE TO THE CHURCH LANDS

Situate at

Belonging to the United Methodist Church.

DECLARATION BY THE TRUSTEES.

** These words to be inserted if a majority and not all the trustees sign.*

† If there are no members of the United Methodist Church using the lands the words enclosed in the square brackets should be omitted.

‡ If the church lands referred to are freehold the words enclosed in the square brackets should be omitted.

WE the undersigned being [*a majority of] the trustees of the church lands above referred to [†with the concurrence of the members being eighteen years of age or upwards of the United Methodist Church using the said church lands evidenced by a resolution duly carried by the vote of a majority of such members present and voting at a meeting summoned in pursuance of the provisions in that behalf contained in the United Methodist Church Act 1907] hereby declare in accordance with the section of the United Methodist Church Act 1907 the marginal note whereof is "Power for trustees of church lands to adopt new model deed" that we will henceforth hold the said church lands on the same trusts and with and subject to the same powers and provisions as are declared and contained in the new model deed of the United Methodist Church in the said Act referred to with respect to the church lands comprised therein [‡or as near thereto as the difference in tenure will permit].

In witness whereof we the undersigned have hereunto set our respective hands and seals the day of 19 .

Signed sealed and delivered by A.B. in the presence of of &c.	}	A.B. of C.D. of &c.
--	---	-----------------------------------

Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,

FOR

ROWLAND BAILEY, Esq., I.S.O., M.V.O., the King's Printer of Acts of Parliament.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C.; or
OLIVER AND BOYD, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.