



CHAPTER lix.

An Act to authorise the union of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church to deal with real and personal and heritable and moveable property belonging to the said Churches or denominations to provide for the vesting of the said property in trust for the Church so formed and for the assimilation of the trusts thereof and for other purposes.

A.D. 1929.

[10th May 1929.]

WHEREAS by a deed poll dated the twenty-eighth day of February one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four duly made and published by the Reverend John Wesley it was declared that the various persons therein named in number one hundred being preachers and expounders of God's holy word under the care of and in connexion with the said John Wesley and their successors for ever did and should thereafter constitute the "Conference of the people called Methodists" and the said deed poll provided (inter alia) for the times of meeting the constitution and the duties of the said conference :

And whereas by an indenture dated the third day of July one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two and made between John Sutcliffe and certain other persons therein named of the first part the Reverend George Marsden the president for the time being of the said

A.D. 1929. — conference of the people called Methodists of the second part and James Brown of the third part a certain piece of ground and hereditaments at Skircoat in the parish of Halifax in the county of York were duly conveyed to the use of the parties thereto of the first part upon the trusts therein declared and such indenture is known as “the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Model Deed” :

And whereas in the year one thousand eight hundred and eight and subsequent years numerous congregations and societies were formed in different parts of England under the direction of Hugh Bourne James Bourne William Clowes and James Steele and such congregations and societies were formed into one general community or connexion known and distinguished by the name of “the Primitive Methodist Connexion” :

And whereas at a general assembly or conference of the said Primitive Methodist Connexion held at Scotter in the county of Lincoln from the fourteenth to the nineteenth days of May one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine it was determined and directed that the said Hugh Bourne James Bourne and William Clowes (the said James Steele being then deceased) should explain and declare the name objects rules and fundamental regulations of the said connexion :

And whereas the said Hugh Bourne James Bourne and William Clowes did by deed poll dated the 5th day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty explain and declare accordingly and (inter alia) in effect declared that the governing body of the said connexion should continue to be the annual assembly or conference as therein described :

And whereas by an indenture dated the twenty-fourth day of March one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four and made between the Reverend Richard Davies of the one part and Jabez Barlow and others of the second part a certain piece of land and hereditaments at Walworth in the county of Surrey were conveyed to the use of the parties thereto of the second part upon the trusts therein declared and such indenture is known as “the model chapel trust deed of the Primitive Methodist Connexion” :

And whereas pursuant to the provisions of the United Methodist Church Act 1907 the Methodist New Connexion Church the Bible Christian Church and the

United Methodist Free Churches did on the seventeenth day of September one thousand nine hundred and seven unite together in one church under the name of "the United Methodist Church": A.D. 1929.
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And whereas the deed poll of foundation referred to in section 7 of the said Act was duly adopted on the seventeenth day of September one thousand nine hundred and seven and was enrolled on the same day in the central office of the Supreme Court of Judicature:

And whereas power to adopt a new model deed for the settlement of church lands as in the said Act defined and other hereditaments was granted to the said United Methodist Church by section 12 of the said Act in accordance with the conditions therein set forth:

And whereas by an indenture dated the twenty-second day of April one thousand nine hundred and eight and made between Henry Arthur Clowes of the first part Haughton Charles Okeover and Alfred Charles Duncombe of the second part and the Reverend Ralph Abercrombie M.A. and others of the third part a certain piece of land in the borough of Salford was conveyed to the use of the parties thereto of the third part upon the trusts therein declared and such indenture is known as "the model deed of the United Methodist Church":

And whereas prior to and since the respective dates of the aforesaid model deeds various places of worship have been from time to time erected and settled upon trusts which placed them respectively under the control and jurisdiction of the yearly conferences of one of the three churches the union of which is authorised pursuant to this Act:

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

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And whereas various churches chapels mission halls preaching places manses Sunday schools day schools boarding schools colleges orphanages training institutions for teachers and deaconesses institutes homes for soldiers and sailors printing and publishing offices (commonly and in this Act referred to as "book rooms") dwelling-houses and other lands buildings tenements and hereditaments and heritable property situate in various parts of Great Britain the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and also various moneys funds stocks shares securities goods chattels and other personal estate and moveable property 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 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 conferences or assemblies and otherwise :

And whereas the respective annual conferences or assemblies of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church respectively after prolonged and mature consideration and after ascertaining the wishes of the members of the said churches or denominations respectively through their respective synods or district meetings and circuit or quarterly meetings and other meetings have by resolutions passed respectively by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the members present and voting in the annual conference or assembly of each of the said churches or denominations (in the case of the Wesleyan Methodist Church by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the members present and voting in the pastoral session and also by the votes of a like majority in the representative session of the Wesleyan Methodist conference or assembly) resolved that it is expedient that the said churches or denominations be united to form one church or denomination under the name of "the Methodist Church" :

And whereas it is expedient that such union should be effected in the manner and under the constitution by this Act provided : A.D. 1929.
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And whereas it is expedient that the said churches chapels mission halls preaching places manses Sunday schools day schools boarding schools colleges orphanages training institutions for teachers and deaconesses institutes homes for soldiers and sailors book rooms dwelling houses and other lands buildings tenements and hereditaments and heritable property hereinbefore mentioned and the said moneys funds stocks shares securities goods chattels and other personal estate and moveable property 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 church or denomination as aforesaid be held in trust for the use and benefit of such one church or denomination nevertheless upon trusts and for purposes and objects the same so far as circumstances will permit as those upon and for which the same were respectively previously held for the benefit of the said churches or denominations respectively :

And whereas it is expedient that such provision should be made as is in this Act contained with respect to certain buildings at the date of union belonging to any of the said churches or denominations which are registered as places of worship and for the solemnization 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) :—

1. This Act may be cited as the Methodist Church Union Act 1929. Short title.

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

The expression "the Wesleyan Methodist Church" means the church denomination or connexion commonly described by that name founded by the Reverend John Wesley;

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The expression "the Primitive Methodist Church" means the church denomination or connexion commonly described by that name founded by Hugh Bourne and others in or about the year one thousand eight hundred and eight;

The expression "the United Methodist Church" means the church denomination or connexion formed under or pursuant to the United Methodist Church Act 1907;

The expression "the said churches or denominations" means collectively the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church;

The expression "the uniting conference" means the united conference referred to in the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Provision for three conferences to unite as one conference";

The expression "the 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 "the deed of union" means the deed poll setting forth the basis of union referred to in the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Power of uniting conference to adopt deed of union";

The expression "the conference" means the annual conference of the Methodist Church;

The expression "church lands" includes all lands tenements and hereditaments of whatever tenure and chattels real and all feu duties ground annuals ground rents heritably secured perpetual annual payments tack duties bonds of relief bonds and dispositions in security dispositions leases and other heritable rights which now are or which may at any time hereafter be held or occupied in trust for or on behalf of or in connexion with or for any of the purposes of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church or the United Methodist Church 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 (whether or not such church or denomination society institution or charity is specifically named or referred to in any declaration of trust or other instrument relating to any such property held or occupied in trust as aforesaid) together with all churches chapels mission halls preaching places manses Sunday schools day schools boarding schools colleges orphanages training institutions for teachers and deaconesses institutes homes for soldiers and sailors book rooms dwelling-houses or other buildings thereon and also all fixtures fittings rights easements appurtenances privileges and pertinents whatsoever relating thereto respectively or enjoyed and held therewith;

A.D. 1929.

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

The expression "the date of union" means the date on and from which the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church respectively shall become by virtue of this Act united in one church or denomination under the name of "the Methodist Church";

The expression "the new model deed" means the trust deed recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners in pursuance of the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Power to adopt new model deed."

3. The respective annual conferences or assemblies of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church respectively holden in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one or any subsequent year may (by resolutions to be passed in the Wesleyan Methodist conference or assembly by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the members present and voting in the pastoral session and also by the votes of a like majority in the representative session of

Provision
for three
conferences
to unite
as one
conference.

A.D. 1929. — the said conference or assembly and in the respective conferences or assemblies of the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church by the votes of a like majority of the members present and voting in such respective conferences or assemblies) decide and determine that each of the said conferences or assemblies holden in the then next succeeding year shall after the conclusion of its ordinary business adjourn its proceedings to the same day and place to be appointed by the said resolutions for the purpose of holding in such next succeeding year a united meeting of the members of such conferences or assemblies and it shall be lawful on the day and at the place so appointed for the said conferences or assemblies to unite and sit together as one 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 such united conference shall require.

President
vice-
president
and secre-
tary of
uniting
conference.

4.—(1) The uniting conference shall be opened and (until the election of a president thereof as is hereinafter provided) presided over by the senior in age there present and willing to act of the presidents of the said respective conferences or assemblies of the said churches or denominations holden in the same year as the meeting of the uniting conference and in the event of none of such presidents being present and willing to act then by any member of the uniting conference being a minister of one of the said churches or denominations elected for that purpose.

(2) The uniting 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 such of the members of the uniting conference as are ministers of one or other of the said churches or denominations and of a vice-president who shall be a layman and be chosen from among the lay members of the uniting conference.

(3) In the event of the absence death resignation or incapacity of the president vice-president or secretary of the uniting conference another person shall be forthwith chosen if the uniting conference shall be sitting at the time of such death resignation or incapacity as aforesaid occurring in manner hereinbefore provided, or in

the event of the same occurring while the uniting conference is not sitting then by any committee thereof which shall be empowered in that behalf by the uniting conference.

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

Procedure
of uniting
conference.

6. The declaration of the president or vice-president or the acting president of the uniting conference shall be final and conclusive evidence as to the numbers voting respectively for and against any resolution submitted to the uniting conference.

Declaration
as to voting
to be final.

7. It shall be lawful for the uniting conference by resolution passed by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the respective representatives of each of the said churches or denominations present at the uniting 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 and in the case of the separate voting of the representatives of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the representatives of the pastoral session and of the representative session voting separately) to declare that the said churches or denominations shall be united in and form one united church or denomination under the name of "the Methodist Church" and under such constitution and upon such terms and conditions as may be declared and defined in a deed poll setting forth the basis of union to be settled and adopted by the uniting conference as in this Act provided.

Power of
uniting
conference
to resolve
on union
of three
churches.

8.—(1) It shall be lawful for the uniting conference by resolution passed by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the respective representatives of each of the said churches or denominations present at the uniting 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 and in the case of the separate voting of the representatives of

Power of
uniting
conference
to adopt
deed of
union.

A.D. 1929. — the Wesleyan Methodist Church the representatives of the pastoral session and of the representative session voting separately) to settle and adopt a deed poll setting forth the basis of union.

(2) The deed of union shall declare and define the constitution and doctrinal standards of the said united church or denomination under the name of "the Methodist Church" and the terms and conditions of such union as aforesaid and shall contain all such provisions as to the constitution election powers duties and privileges of the conference and all such other provisions (including powers from time to time subject to the provisions of this Act to alter amend or repeal any of the provisions of the deed of union or of the constitution of the Methodist Church as declared and defined thereby and to adopt any new provisions with respect to any matter to which the deed of union relates or to the constitution of the Methodist Church) as in the judgment of the uniting conference may be necessary or desirable for the government and discipline of the Methodist Church and the management and administration of the affairs thereof Provided that the conference shall not have any power to alter or vary in any manner whatsoever the clauses contained in the deed of union which define the doctrinal standards of the Methodist Church.

(3) After any such alteration amendment or repeal or the adoption of any such new provision as aforesaid reference to the deed of union in this Act or in any document (whether executed before or after any such alteration amendment or repeal or the adoption of any such new provision as aforesaid) shall be construed and take effect as reference to the deed of union as varied by any such alteration amendment repeal or new provision.

(4) The conference shall consist of a representative session and a ministerial session and such sessions shall continue as provided by the deed of union unless and until it shall be otherwise decided by separate resolutions passed by such sessions respectively by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the members of such respective sessions present and voting and unless and until any such resolutions shall have been confirmed in the next subsequent year by resolutions similarly passed by such sessions respectively.

(5) No alterations shall be made in the regulations set forth in the deed of union so far as they define the relative duties and privileges of such respective sessions unless and until any such alteration shall have been resolved upon and confirmed as aforesaid. A.D. 1929.
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(6) The conference shall be the final authority within the Methodist Church with regard to all questions concerning the interpretation of its doctrines.

9. The deed of union when the same has been adopted by such resolution of the uniting conference as aforesaid shall be forthwith signed sealed and delivered by the president of the uniting conference and by any of the presidents elected in the year in which the uniting conference shall be held of the respective annual conferences or assemblies of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church who may be present at the uniting conference and be willing to execute the deed of union and the same shall within three months thereafter be sent to the office of the Charity Commissioners for the purpose of being recorded in the books of the said Commissioners. Deed of union to be executed etc.

10. On and from the date of the execution of the deed of union the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church shall by virtue of this Act become and be united in and form one united church or denomination under the name of "the Methodist Church" and under the constitution terms conditions and provisions defined and declared in the deed of union. Three churches to be united into the Methodist Church.

11. On and from the date of union until the first meeting of the conference the uniting conference shall have and may exercise all powers rights authorities and discretions and shall discharge all duties vested in or imposed upon the conference under or by virtue of this Act or the constitution of the conference as declared and defined by the deed of union 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 uniting 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 Uniting conference may temporarily exercise powers of conference.

A.D. 1929. — the date of union shall be valid and 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 conference or under the authority of the same.

Church
lands to be
held in trust
for
Methodist
Church.

12. On and after the date of union—

- (a) all church lands of the Wesleyan Methodist Church whether held upon the trusts of or in conformity with the deed poll of the twenty-eighth day of February one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four or upon the trusts of or in conformity with the Wesleyan Methodist chapel model deed of the third day of July one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two together with all other church lands now held upon trust for or on behalf of the Wesleyan Methodist Church or the annual conference or assembly of the said church;
- (b) all church lands of the Primitive Methodist Church whether held upon the trusts of or in conformity with the deed poll of the fifth day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty or upon the trusts of or in conformity with the model chapel trust deed of the Primitive Methodist Connexion of the twenty-fourth day of March one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four together with all other church lands now held upon trust for or on behalf of the Primitive Methodist Church or the annual conference or assembly of the said church; and
- (c) all church lands of the United Methodist Church held upon the trusts of or in conformity with the model deed of the United Methodist Church of the twenty-second day of April one thousand nine hundred and eight together with all other church lands now held upon trust for or on behalf of the United Methodist Church or the annual conference or assembly of the said church;

shall as from the date of union be held in trust for or for the purposes of the Methodist Church under the constitution declared and defined in this Act and in the deed of

union or for or for the purposes of the society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary to the 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 "the Methodist Church" were substituted for any words referring to or describing the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church or the United Methodist Church or any of the several bodies or denominations which have become merged or united in the United Methodist Church wherever such words occur in any deed poll model deed 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 bond lease or agreement at the date of union affecting the same respectively. Provided that if in any case the provisions relating to discipline contained in the deed of union or any modification thereof which the Methodist Church may at any time hereafter adopt shall conflict with any of the provisions relating to discipline contained in any such deed poll model deed declaration of trust or other instrument relating to or otherwise affecting any of such church lands the provisions relating to discipline contained in the deed of union or any such modification thereof as aforesaid shall prevail.

13. Wherever the word "conference" is used in any Act of Parliament order deed will memorandum and articles of association or other instrument as applicable to the annual conference or assembly of any of the said churches or denominations such word shall after the date of union be construed to mean the conference.

14. It shall be lawful for the uniting conference by resolution passed by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the respective representatives of each of the said churches or denominations present at the uniting 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

A.D. 1929.

As to construction of word "conference."

Power to adopt new model deed.

A.D. 1929. — settle and adopt a form of model trust deed for the settlement of any church lands which shall be held by virtue of the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Church lands to be held in trust for Methodist Church" or any lands tenements hereditaments feu duties ground annuals ground rents heritably secured perpetual annual payments tack duties bonds of relief bonds and dispositions in security dispositions leases or other heritable rights which shall at any time after the date of union be acquired by or on behalf of or in connection with the Methodist Church or any congregation of members thereof or any society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church upon trusts for or for the purposes of or in connection with any church or chapel or any vestry minister's or other dwelling-house schoolroom lecture hall mission hall or other building or burial ground in connection 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 shall be forthwith sent to the office of the Charity Commissioners for the purpose of being recorded in the books of the said commissioners.

Power to
alter new
model deed.

15.—(1) At any time after the date of union and from time to time it shall be lawful for the conference by resolution passed in one year by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the members of the conference of that year present and voting upon such resolution and confirmed in the next subsequent year by a resolution of the conference of that year similarly passed 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 subject and except as provided by subsection (4) of this section.

(2) Every such alteration amendment repeal and new provision as aforesaid shall have effect and be binding on the Methodist Church as from the date of the confirmatory resolutions in this section mentioned and thereafter the new model deed and 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. A.D. 1929.
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(3) Any such alteration amendment repeal or new provision may at any time and from time to time if the conference shall so determine be embodied in a deed poll under the hand and seal of the president for the time being of the conference and any such deed poll shall within three months after execution be sent to the office of the Charity Commissioners for the purpose of being recorded in the books of the said commissioners.

(4) The conference shall not have any power to alter or vary in the new model deed the clause therein contained relating to the doctrinal standards of the Methodist Church.

16. In the exercise of the powers of the conference to appoint ministers to the use and enjoyment of places of worship it shall be lawful for the conference notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the trust deeds of any of the said churches or denominations existing at the date of union to appoint a minister to the use and enjoyment of any place of worship for more than three years successively. As to period for which ministers may be appointed.

17.—(1) If at any time after the date of union the trustees of any church lands or a majority of them or in the case of trustees of any church lands in Scotland a majority and quorum of them 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 then made or adopted or thereafter to be made or adopted instead of the trusts upon which the same shall have been previously held it shall (subject to the restrictions of this Act relating to doctrinal standards) be lawful for such trustees or a majority of them or in the case of trustees of any church lands in Scotland a majority and quorum of them to execute and transmit to the president for the time being of the conference a declaration in the form contained in Part I or Part II (as the case may be) of the schedule to this Act and thereupon such church lands shall thenceforth be and be deemed to be held (subject to the restrictions aforesaid) upon and with and subject to the trusts powers and provisions declared and contained in the new model deed and in any such Power to existing trustees to adopt new model deed.

A.D. 1929.

alteration amendment repeal or new provision as aforesaid then made or adopted or thereafter to be made or adopted 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 any mortgage charge incumbrance lien bond lease or agreement at the date of such declaration as aforesaid affecting the same respectively.

(2) Any such declaration relating to any church lands in Scotland shall forthwith after the execution thereof be recorded in the appropriate register of sasines.

(3) This section shall not apply to church lands which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners except with the consent of the said commissioners.

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

18. All personal or moveable property (other than chattels real or the several funds mentioned in the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "As to certain annuitant superannuation and other funds") at the date of union belonging to or held in trust for or on behalf of or in connection with or for any of the purposes of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church or the United Methodist Church respectively or for 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 Methodist Church or the corresponding society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary to the 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.

As to
certain
annuitant
superannua-
tion and
other
funds.

19.—(1) Subject as in this section provided 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 the respective funds following (namely) :—

(a) The Wesleyan Methodist Preachers Annuitants Society the Wesleyan Methodist Worn-Out Ministers and Ministers Widows Auxiliary Fund;

(b) The Superannuated Ministers Widows and Orphans Fund of the Primitive Methodist Church the Annuitant Society of the Primitive Methodist Church; A.D. 1929.

(c) The Superannuation and Beneficent Society of the United Methodist Church;

(d) 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.

(2) 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 conference any agreement 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 connection with the 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 other dealing or anything done or omitted by them in respect thereof or otherwise howsoever in relation thereto.

(3) It shall be lawful with the approval of the conference for any two or more of the said existing funds to be amalgamated with each other and for any one or more of the said existing funds to be amalgamated

A.D. 1929. with any new fund that may be established with similar objects.

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

20. Any bequest contained in a will or codicil made by any person living at the date of union in favour of or directed to be administered by or in connection with any of the said churches or denominations or a society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary to any of the said churches or denominations shall take effect in favour of or be administered by or in connection with the Methodist Church or (as the case may be) the corresponding society institution or charity subsidiary or ancillary to the 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 or codicil expressed concerning the same Provided that (a) in any case in which a power or discretion shall be by such will or codicil reposed in any officer or body 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 conference or any committee of the conference or any officer of the Methodist Church to whom the conference shall delegate the same and (b) in any case in which a person or a class of persons or a society institution charity or fund standing in any relation to any of the said churches or denominations shall be an object named or designated in the said bequest the object of such bequest shall be a person or a class of persons or a society institution charity or fund standing in a similar relation to the Methodist Church generally.

Receipt for
bequests
in certain
cases.

21. In any case where by a will or codicil made by 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 connection with any of the said churches or denominations or a society institution or 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 a treasurer appointed for such purpose by the conference or of the

secretary for the time being of the conference 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. 1929.

22. All actions and all proceedings of every description by or on behalf of or against the Methodist Church may be commenced raised carried on or defended in the names of the president vice-president and secretary for the time being of the conference as the nominal plaintiffs prosecutors pursuers petitioners defendants or defenders (as the case may be) for and on behalf of the Methodist Church and in all actions or proceedings the property of the Methodist Church may be stated to be the property of the said president vice-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 vice-president and secretary for and on behalf of the Methodist Church and the death resignation removal or incapacity of or any act or thing done or suffered by such president vice-president or secretary shall not abate or affect any action or other proceeding conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section. As to actions and proceedings by and against Methodist Church.

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

24. Any affidavit statutory or other declaration or any answer or other similar document required from or by the Methodist Church may be made and verified by the president vice-president and secretary for the time being of the conference for and on behalf of the Methodist Church. As to affidavits &c. for and on behalf of Methodist Church.

A.D. 1929.

Indemnity
to president
and other
officials.

25. Every president vice-president and secretary for the time being of the conference in whose name any action or proceeding shall have been commenced raised carried on or defended shall be reimbursed and fully indemnified out of the funds of the 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 raised carried on or defended by or against them as the nominal plaintiffs prosecutors pursuers petitioners defendants or defenders for and on behalf of the Methodist Church.

President
&c. of
uniting
conference
to be
deemed
president
&c. of
conference.

26. For the purposes of the sections of this Act of which the respective marginal notes are "As to actions and proceedings by and against Methodist Church" "Service of process on Methodist Church" "As to affidavits &c. for and on behalf of Methodist Church" and "Indemnity to president and other officials" the president vice-president and secretary for the time being of the uniting conference shall respectively until the first meeting of the conference be deemed to be the president vice-president and secretary of the conference.

Act not to
impose
liability
upon
Methodist
Church in
respect of
incum-
brances.

27. Except where in this Act expressly provided nothing in this Act contained shall render the 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 incumbrances liens bonds and dispositions in security or obligations created or contracted in respect of any church lands or any property referred to in the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Personal property of uniting churches to be held in trust for Methodist Church" 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 incumbrance lien bond and disposition in security or obligation.

Trustees'
indemnity
preserved.

28. Nothing in this Act contained shall deprive any trustee of church lands or of any property referred to in the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Personal property of uniting churches to be held in trust for Methodist Church" of any rights to which but

for this Act he would be entitled to be indemnified out of such lands or property in respect of any mortgage charge incumbrance lien bond and disposition in security or obligation in respect of which he shall have become personally liable. A.D. 1929.
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29. A document whether written or printed purporting to be a copy of the deed of union or of the new model deed or of any resolution of the conference making or adopting or of any deed poll or deed of declaration embodying any alteration amendment or repeal of the provisions of the deed of union or of the new model deed or any new provisions with respect to any matters to which the deed of union or the new model deed relate or to the constitution of the Methodist Church and purporting to be signed by the president or vice-president and secretary for the time being of the uniting conference or of the conference shall be deemed to be a true copy of such deed of union or new model deed or resolution or deed poll or deed of declaration (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. Copies of certain documents to be evidence.

30.—(1) (a) Every building which shall have been certified and recorded on behalf of any congregation of members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church the United Methodist Church or any body or denomination which has become merged or united in the United Methodist Church 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 Methodist Church. Provisions as to buildings certified as places of religious worship and registered for solemnization of marriages.

(b) The secretary of the conference shall as soon as may be after the date of union transmit to the Registrar-General in England a list of all buildings to which this subsection applies signed by the president or vice-president and secretary of the conference and the said Registrar-General shall in the first available list made

A.D. 1929, out and printed by him pursuant to section 7 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 Methodist Church is the religious denomination to which the persons for the time being certifying every such building belong.

(2) (a) Every building which shall have been registered on behalf of any congregation of members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church the United Methodist Church or any body or denomination which has become merged or united in the United Methodist Church 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 19 of that Act shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed to have been so registered on behalf of a congregation of members of the Methodist Church.

(b) The secretary of the conference shall as soon as may be after the date of union transmit to the Registrar-General in England a list of all buildings to which this subsection applies signed by the president or vice-president and secretary for the time being of the conference and the said 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 34 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 19 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 Methodist Church.

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

(4) For the purposes of this section the president vice-president and secretary for the time being of the uniting conference shall respectively until the first

meeting of the conference be deemed to be president A.D. 1929.
vice-president and secretary of the conference. —

(5) The Registrar-General in England shall accept as sufficient evidence of the date of union the production of the deed of union at any time after the date therein purporting to be the date thereof.

31. 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 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— Union not to work a dissolution or extinction of conferences of uniting churches.

(a) in the case of the Wesleyan Methodist Church an extinction of the conference of the people called Methodists within the meaning of the provisions in that behalf contained in the deed poll of the twenty-eighth day of February one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four;

(b) in the case of the Primitive Methodist Church an extinction of the said Primitive Methodist Connexion within the meaning of the provisions in that behalf contained in the deed poll of the fifth day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty;

(c) in the case of the United Methodist Church an extinction of the conference of the United Methodist Church.

32. Nothing in this Act shall take away abridge or Schemes.
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 and whether or not already dealt with by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners or Board of Education) 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 1925

A.D. 1929.

conferred upon any charity by the said Acts or any of them.

Power to
unite with
other
churches.

33. The Methodist Church may by a resolution of the conference passed and confirmed as in this section provided unite or amalgamate with any other church or religious body or association upon such terms and conditions as the Methodist Church by a resolution of the conference passed and confirmed as in this section provided may determine. Provided that the power conferred by this section shall not be exercised except 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 of union or in any alteration or amendment thereof made or new provisions adopted under any power in that behalf contained in the deed of union. Provided also that notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained in the deed of union or in any such alteration amendment or new provision as aforesaid every resolution to which this section refers shall be passed in one year by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the members of the conference of that year present and voting upon such resolution and confirmed in the next subsequent year by a resolution of the conference of that year similarly passed.

Saving for
provisions
of model
deeds
defining
doctrinal
standards
of existing
churches.

34. Nothing in this Act or in the provisions of the deed of union or any modification thereof which the Methodist Church may at any time hereafter adopt shall be deemed to alter amend or vary in any manner whatsoever such of the provisions contained in any of the model deeds or any other deeds of or relating to any of the places of worship or schools of the said churches or denominations existing at the date of union as define or relate to the doctrinal standards set forth in such deeds of any such places of worship or schools.

Extent of
Act.

35.—(1) This Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland but shall extend to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Provided that as regards the Island of Jersey subsection (2) of this section shall apply and that as regards the Isle of Man subsections (3) (4) and (5) of this section shall apply and the said subsection (3) shall be in substitution for subsection (2) of the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Provisions as to

“ buildings certified as places of religious worship and A.D. 1929.
“ registered for solemnization of marriages.”

(2) The transfer to the Methodist Church of any church lands held in trust in the Island of Jersey by the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church or 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 Methodist Church subject to the provisions of the said law.

(3) (a) Every building which shall have been registered on behalf of any congregation of members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church the Primitive Methodist Church or the United Methodist Church or any body or denomination which has become merged or united in the United Methodist Church for the solemnization of marriages therein pursuant to the provisions of the Act of the Isle of Man Legislature intituled “ the Civil Registration and Dissenters Marriage Act 1924 ” or pursuant to any of the Acts of the said Legislature repealed by such Act and the registry whereof shall not at the date of union have been cancelled shall for all purposes whatsoever be deemed to have been so registered on behalf of a congregation of members of the Methodist Church.

(b) The secretary of the conference or (until the first meeting of the conference) of the uniting conference shall as soon as may be after the date of union transmit to the Registrar-General of the Isle of Man a list of all buildings to which this subsection applies signed by the president or vice-president and secretary of the conference or (until the first meeting of the conference) of the uniting conference and the said 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 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. 1929.
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(4) Where in pursuance of this Act any deed or other document is required to be sent to the office of the Charity Commissioners a copy of such deed or other document shall at the same time be sent to the office of the Registry of Deeds in the Isle of Man.

(5) As from the date of union the Acts of the Isle of Man Legislature intituled "the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property Act 1901" and "the Primitive Methodist Trust Property Act 1906" shall apply with the substitution of the word "Methodist" for "Wesleyan Methodist" or "Primitive Methodist" as the case may be.

Costs of
Act.

36. 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 half thereof by and out of the general funds of the Wesleyan Methodist Church as to one fourth thereof by and out of the general funds of the Primitive Methodist Church and as to one fourth thereof by and out of the general funds of the United Methodist Church.

The SCHEDULE referred to in the
foregoing Act.

A.D. 1929.
—

METHODIST CHURCH UNION ACT 1929.

PART I.—APPLICABLE TO ENGLAND AND WALES
AND THE ISLE OF MAN.

In reference to the church lands situate at

belonging to the Methodist Church.

DECLARATION BY THE TRUSTEES.

WE the undersigned being [a majority of] the trustees of the church lands above referred to hereby declare in accordance with the section of the Methodist Church Union Act 1929 of which the marginal note is "Power to existing trustees to adopt new model deed" that subject to the restrictions referred to in the said section 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 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

Signed sealed and delivered
by A.B. in the presence of

PART II.—APPLICABLE TO SCOTLAND.

In reference to the church lands situate at

belonging to the Methodist Church.

DECLARATION BY THE TRUSTEES.

WE [names and addresses of trustees in full] the trustees of the church lands above referred to acting under [particulars of deed of trust] hereby declare in accordance with the section of the Methodist Church Union Act 1929 of which the marginal note

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

[Ch. lix.]

Methodist Church [19 & 20 GEO. 5.]
Union Act, 1929.

A.D. 1929. is "Power to existing trustees to adopt new model deed"
— that subject to the restrictions referred to in the said section
we are henceforth to hold all the whole [description of church
lands as in titles] 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 Methodist Church in the said Act
referred to.

IN WITNESS whereof

[To be signed by the trustees or a majority and quorum of
the trustees and testing clause to be added.]

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FOR

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