

**FOR VIEWING  
PURPOSES ONLY**

**(DO NOT CERTIFY)**

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**AN ACT in Amendment of the Charter of Trinity Church in Newport.**

73-S 979 A  
Approved  
May 15, 1973.

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**Whereas,** The rector, church wardens, vestry and congregation of Trinity Church in Newport, were granted a charter of incorporation in the year 1769; and

**Whereas,** By an enactment of the general assembly at its October session, in the year 1816, said charter of 1769 was amended, enlarged, and confirmed; and said enactments were thereafter amended from time to time at other subsequent sessions of the general assembly so as to be appropriate to the changing state of the concerns of said corporation; and

**Whereas,** The said rector, church-wardens, vestry and congregation of Trinity Church in Newport, have

preferred a petition unto this session of the general assembly, and have prayed this assembly further to alter, amend and enlarge their charter of incorporation and to extend the powers and provisions thereof; to enable them, with greater convenience, to manage and secure the property and funds of which they are now, or may hereafter be, possessed, and to promote and establish the worship of Almighty God, according to the discipline, rites, canons, usages, ceremonies and liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United State of America:—

**Now Therefore, It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:**

Section 1. The act passed at the February session, A.D. 1769, constituting the rector, church-wardens, vestry and congregation of Trinity Church in Newport, as a body corporate and politic, now known and cited as "Trinity Church in Newport," as amended by acts passed at the sessions of June, 1806, October, 1816, June, 1819, June, 1827, June, 1828, June, 1847, January, 1865, January, 1892, January, 1893, January, 1912, January, 1919, January, 1948, and by an act passed at the January session, 1952, approved January 31, 1952, and by an act passed at the January session 1959, effective March 25, 1959, entitled "An act in amendment of the act passed at the February session, A.D. 1769, constituting the rector, church-wardens, vestry and congregation of Trinity Church in Newport," to be known as a body corporate and politic, now known and cited as "Trinity Church

in Newport,' as amended," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section I. That the rector, church-wardens, vestry, and congregation of said church, be, and they and their successors forever hereby are, made, constituted, and confirmed to be, a body corporate and politic, with perpetual succession, to be known as "The rector, church-wardens, vestry, and congregation of Trinity Church in Newport,"—provided, nevertheless, that, for purposes of business convenience, and in all matters of general business concern, the said corporation may use or employ the short title of, or otherwise be known as, "Trinity Church in Newport."

Sec. II. That said corporation shall be able and capable in law to sue and to be sued, to plead and to be impleaded, to answer and to be answered unto, to defend and to be defended against, in all courts and places, and before all proper judges whomsoever; to take, receive and hold all monies and other property, real or personal, by voluntary subscription, contribution, donation or otherwise, and also all legacies and devises of real and personal estate; provided, nevertheless, that all donations made, or that may be made, to said corporation, or that ensue, or may ensue, to its use, shall be strictly used and applied according to the intention of and directions of the donors; and also to have, acquire, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels, and property of every description, not exceeding in the whole ten million (\$10,000,000) dollars; and all and singular the

property aforesaid; to lease, grant, convey or dispose of in such manner as they may judge best for the interest of said corporation; to invest and to reinvest, or to cause to be invested or to be reinvested, in some sage and profitable bonds or stocks the fund theretofore raised by subscription, donation, legacies or otherwise, and intended by the subscribers, donors, etc., to be a permanent fund for the better support of said corporation, and the said fund, in whatever manner the same may at any time be invested, shall remain unimpaired and undiminished by any act of said corporation; and the accruing interest, dividends or profits thereof only shall be at the disposal of said corporation, agreeably to the terms of the original subscriptions; to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter or renew at pleasure, with full power and authority to make and ordain all such by-laws, rules, and regulations, for the government of the corporation, and the better judgment of the affairs thereof, as they may deem necessary and proper, provided the same be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this state and the constitution and laws of the United States.

Sec. III. That each and every adult communicant in regular standing in the Protestant Episcopal Church who is a regular member of, worshipper in, and contributor to, said Trinity Church in Newport, including, nevertheless, any lessee of a pew owned by the said corporation whose rentals and lawful assessments have been paid, and who is a communicant of said Protestant Episcopal Church; and each and every owner of a pew in said Trinity Church, who

at the time of voting shall have paid all taxes that have been lawfully assessed and due against such pews, shall be a member of said corporation and shall be entitled to appear and vote in all meetings of said corporation; provided, nevertheless, that no person shall be elected to a position of trust in said corporation unless such person is a member of said corporation.

Sec. IV. That there shall be an annual meeting of the corporation aforesaid at such time and place as may in the by-laws be provided; and there shall be elected at each annual meeting of said corporation a senior warden, a junior warden, three vestrymen, a secretary, a treasurer, and an assistant treasurer; and at each annual meeting of said corporation any of the affairs and business of said corporation may be transacted; and notice of said annual meeting of the corporation, quorum, voting requirements, and other laws, rules and regulations governing the conduct of said meeting shall be as in the by-laws provided; Provided, nevertheless, that in case said corporation fails, from any cause or circumstance whatsoever, to hold an annual meeting, yet this act shall continue and be in full force; provided, further, that special meetings of said corporation may be called in such manner and for such purposes as may in the by-laws be provided.

Sec. V. That the rector of the corporation aforesaid shall be elected by the members thereof at a meeting of said corporation duly called for that purpose; and the said rector by them thus lawfully elected

shall be a lawful Minister of Christ in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and the said rector shall be instituted in office as soon thereafter as may be, according to the office set forth for that purpose by the general convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church as aforesaid; and the said rector so elected and instituted shall thereafter, while he continues in such capacity, be ex-officio a member of said corporation.

Sec. VI. That there shall be a senior warden and a junior warden of the corporation aforesaid; and the said senior warden and the said junior warden shall be elected at the annual meeting of said corporation; provided, nevertheless, that, if a vacancy should happen in either of said offices, such vacancy may be filled by the vestry in such manner as may in the by-laws be provided; and the said wardens shall hold office for one year or, if elected to fill a vacancy, until the next succeeding annual meeting, or in any event until their successors are elected and qualified; and the said wardens shall be eligible for re-election upon the expiration of their term of office; and the said wardens shall perform such duties as may in the by-laws be provided.

Sec. VII. That there shall be nine vestrymen of the corporation aforesaid; and there shall be elected at each annual meeting of said corporation three vestrymen; provided, nevertheless, that at the annual meeting of the corporation next following the passage of this act, three vestrymen shall be elected for terms of three years each, and three for terms of

two years each, and three for terms of one year each, and thereafter three vestrymen shall be elected at each annual meeting as their respective terms of office expire and provided, further, that if a vacancy should happen in any of said offices, such vacancy may be filled by the vestry in such manner as may in the by-laws be provided; and the said vestrymen shall hold office for three years each, except as herein-before provided, or, if elected to fill a vacancy, for the unexpired term of office of the vestrymen whom they succeed in office or in any event until their respective successors are elected and qualified; and the said vestrymen shall not be eligible for reelection until one year after the expiration of their term of office; and the said vestrymen shall perform such duties as may in the by-laws be provided.

Sec. VIII. That there shall be a secretary of the corporation aforesaid; and the said secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting of said corporation; provided, nevertheless, that if a vacancy should happen in said office, such vacancy may be filled by the vestry in such manner as may in the by-laws be provided; and the said secretary shall hold office for one year or, if elected to fill a vacancy, until the next succeeding annual meeting or in any event until his successor is elected and qualified; and the said secretary shall be eligible for reelection upon the expiration of his term of office; and the said secretary shall perform such duties as may in the by-laws be provided.

Sec. IX. That there shall be a treasurer of the cor-

poration aforesaid, and the said treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting of said corporation; provided, nevertheless, that, if a vacancy should happen in said office, such vacancy may be filled by the vestry in such manner as may in the by-laws be provided; and the said treasurer shall hold office for one year, or if elected to fill a vacancy, until the next succeeding annual meeting, or in any event until his successor is elected and qualified; and the said treasurer shall be eligible for reelection upon the expiration of his term of office; and the said treasurer, previous to entering upon the duties of his office, shall annually give satisfactory bond to said corporation for the faithful discharge of the duties of his said office; and the said treasurer shall perform such duties as may in the by-laws be provided.

Sec. X. That there shall be an assistant treasurer of the corporation aforesaid, and the said assistant treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting of said corporation; provided, nevertheless, that, if a vacancy should happen in said office, such vacancy may be filled by the vestry in such manner as may in the by-laws be provided; and the said assistant treasurer shall hold office for one year, or if elected to fill a vacancy, until the next succeeding annual meeting, or in any event until his successor is elected and qualified; and the said assistant treasurer shall be eligible for reelection upon the expiration of his term of office and the said assistant treasurer, previous to entering upon the duties of his office, shall annually give satisfactory bond to said corporation for the faithful discharge of the duties of his said

office, and the said assistant treasurer shall perform such duties as may in the by-laws be provided.

Sec. XI. That there shall be a governing board of the corporation aforesaid which shall be known as the vestry of the corporation; that the vestry of the corporation shall be composed of the rector, the senior warden, the junior warden, the nine vestrymen, the treasurer, the assistant treasurer and the secretary; that the vestry of said corporation, as thus composed for the time being, shall have the entire and sole management and disposition of all the property and funds of said corporation, in trust, nevertheless, and for the use of said corporation, for the sole support and promotion of the public worship of God as in the preamble of this act expressed, for defraying the incidental expenses thereof, and for the repairs of the church edifice and its appurtenances; that the vestry of said corporation may, for the purpose of exercising management and disposition of the property and funds of said corporation hold meetings at such times and places as they may deem proper, and the quorum, voting and other laws, rules and regulations shall be as in the by-laws provided; and the vestry shall perform such other duties as may in the by-laws be provided.

Sec. XII. That whenever any tax or proportion of money shall be assessed by order of said corporation upon the pews of the said Church edifice, for the repairs of said edifice and its appurtenances, which are already or may hereafter be made, or for the expenses of said corporation, such tax or pro-

portion of money shall be paid by the several owners of such pews agreeably to their respective assessments, and the rules and regulations of said corporation; and in case any owner as aforesaid shall, for the space of six months after the notice of any tax or proportion of money assessed as aforesaid, refuse or neglect to pay the same, the pews of such delinquents shall and may be sold by order of said corporation, at public auction, for the payment and discharge of such taxes and costs; provided, nevertheless, that such sale be previously advertised, at least thirty days before such pews shall be offered for sale, and the surplus money, (if any) after the payment of such taxes and costs, shall be lodged with the treasurer of said corporation, to be paid over to such delinquents, or their legal representatives, on demand.

Sec. XIII. That by-laws consistent with this act shall be adopted to carry out the provisions of this act and for any other purposes not inconsistent therewith; provided, nevertheless, that such by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the corporation present at any meeting of said corporation duly called for such purpose.

Sec. XIV. That the filing with the secretary of state of a certificate attested by the secretary of said corporation and bearing its seal, setting forth that at a meeting of said corporation, duly constituted, a majority of its members present had by vote signified its acceptance of and consent to the provisions of this act, shall be deemed and taken as proof

of said corporation's acceptance of and consent to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 2. That this act shall take effect upon its passage and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

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**AN ACT in Amendment of the Act Passed at the February Session, A. D. 1769, Constituting the Rector, Church-Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church in Newport, to be Known as a Body Corporate and Politic, Now Known and Cited as "Trinity Church in Newport," as Amended.**

5191  
Effective  
March 25  
1959

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

**Section 1.** The act passed at the February session, A. D. 1769, constituting the rector, church-wardens, vestry and congregation of Trinity Church in Newport, as a body corporate and politic, now known and cited as "Trinity Church in Newport," as amended by acts passed at the sessions of June, 1806, October, 1816, June, 1819, June, 1827, June, 1828, June, 1847, January, 1865, January, 1892, January, 1893, January, 1912, January, 1919, January, 1948, and by an act passed at the January session, 1952, approved January 31, 1952, entitled "An act in amendment of the act passed at the February session, A. D. 1769, constituting the rector, church-wardens, vestry and congregation of Trinity Church in Newport, to be known as a body corporate and politic, now known and cited as 'Trinity Church in Newport,' as amended," is hereby amended so that section II of the 1952 act shall read as follows:

"Section II.--That said corporation shall be able and capable in law to sue and to be sued, to plead and to be impleaded, to answer and to be answered unto, to defend and to be defended against, in all courts and places, and before all proper judges whomsoever; to take, receive and hold all monies and other property, real or personal, by voluntary subscription, contribu-

tion, donation or otherwise, and also all legacies and devises of real and personal estate; **provided, nevertheless,** that all donations made, or that may be made, to said corporation, or that ensue, or may ensue, to its use, shall be strictly used and applied according to the intention of and directions of the donors; and also to have, acquire, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels, and property of every description, not exceeding in the whole five million (\$5,000,000) dollars; and all and singular the property aforesaid; to lease, grant, convey or dispose of in such manner as they may judge best for the interest of said corporation; to invest and to reinvest, or to cause to be invested or to be reinvested, in some safe and profitable bonds or stocks the fund heretofore raised by subscription, donation, legacies or otherwise, and intended by the subscribers, donors, etc., to be a permanent fund for the better support of said corporation, and the said fund, in whatever manner the same may at any time be invested, shall remain unimpaired and undiminished by any act of said corporation; and the accruing interest, dividends or profits thereof only shall be at the disposal of said corporation, agreeably to the terms of the original subscriptions; to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter or renew at pleasure, with full power and authority to make and ordain all such by-laws, rules, and regulations, for the government of the corporation, and the better judgment of the affairs thereof, as they may deem necessary and proper, provided the same be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this state and the constitution and laws of the United States.

**Sec. 2.** This act shall take effect upon its passage and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

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AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF THE ACT PASSED AT THE FEBRUARY SESSION, A.D. 1769, CONSTITUTING THE RECTOR, CHURCH-WARDENS, VESTRY AND CONGREGATION OF TRINITY CHURCH IN NEWPORT, TO BE KNOWN AS A BODY CORPORATE AND POLITIC, NOW KNOWN AND CITED AS "TRINITY CHURCH IN NEWPORT," AS AMENDED.

S 7.  
Approved  
Jan 31, 1952

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:*

SECTION I. The act passed at the February session, A.D. 1769, constituting the rector, church-wardens, vestry and congregation of Trinity Church in Newport, as a body corporate and politic, now known and cited as "Trinity Church in Newport," as amended by acts passed June, 1806, October, 1816, June, 1819, June, 1927, June, 1928, June, 1847, January, 1865, January, 1892, January, 1893, January, 1912, January, 1919 and by an act passed at the January session, 1948, approved January 9, 1948, entitled "An act in amendment of the charter of Trinity Church in Newport," is hereby amended so that section II of said 1948 act shall read as follows:

"Section II.—That said corporation shall be able and capable in law to sue and to be sued, to plead and to be impleaded, to answer and to be answered unto, to defend and to be defended against, in all courts and places, and before all proper judges whomsoever; to take, receive and hold all monies and other property, real or personal, by voluntary subscription, contribution, donation or otherwise, and also all legacies and devises of real and personal estate; *provided, nevertheless*, that all donations made, or that may be made, to said corporation, or that ensue, or may ensue, to its use, shall be strictly used and applied according to the intention of and directions of the donors; and also to have, acquire, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels, and property of every description, not exceeding in the whole two million five hundred thousand dollars, (\$2,500,000); and all and singular the property aforesaid; to lease, grant, convey or dispose of in such manner as they may judge best for the interest of said corporation; to in-

vest and to reinvest, or to cause to be invested or to be reinvested, in some safe and profitable bonds or stocks the fund heretofore raised by subscription, donation, legacies or otherwise, and intended by the subscribers, donors, etc., to be a permanent fund for the better support of said corporation, and the said fund, in whatever manner the same may at any time be invested, shall remain unimpaired and undiminished by any act of said corporation; and the accruing interest, dividends or profits thereof only shall be at the disposal of said corporation, agreeably to the terms of the original subscriptions; to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter or renew at pleasure, with full power and authority to make and ordain all such by-laws, rules, and regulations, for the government of the corporation, and the better judgment of the affairs thereof, as they may deem necessary and proper, provided the same be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this state and the constitution and laws of the United States."

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

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AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3 OF AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF TRINITY CHURCH, IN NEWPORT, PASSED AT THE OCTOBER SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, A. D. 1816 AND OF ALL ACTS IN AMENDMENT THEREOF AND IN ADDITION THERETO.

H. 976.  
Approved  
April 24, 1919.

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 3 of the act amending the charter of Trinity Church, in Newport, passed at the

October Session of the General Assembly, A. D. 1816, as amended by an act passed at the January Session, A. D. 1892, is hereby further amended so as to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there shall be an annual meeting of said corporation on the second Monday in January, yearly and every year, at which meeting there shall, and at any other legal meeting there may be if vacancies should happen, elected two church-wardens, who shall be ex-officio vestry-men; seven other vestry-men, one of whom shall be secretary and also clerk of the vestry, and such other officers as may be judged necessary. And that legal meetings of said corporation may be called at any time by the rector of said Trinity Church, by either of the church-wardens, by any five vestry-men, or any ten members of said corporation; and at any of the meetings aforesaid, any of the affairs and business of said corporation may be attended to, transacted, and performed. And although said corporation should not, from any cause or circumstance whatever, hold their annual meeting on the second Monday in January yearly and every year hereafter, yet this act shall nevertheless continue and be in full force, and officers may be elected, and the affairs and business of said corporation may be transacted and performed at any subsequent meeting which may be called in either of the modes before stated.”

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage, and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF THE ORIGINAL CHARTER OF INCORPORATION PASSED A. D. 1769, WITH REFERENCE TO THE RECTOR, CHURCH WARDENS, VESTRY AND CONGREGATION OF TRINITY CHURCH, IN NEWPORT, AND OF THE ACTS IN AMENDMENT THEREOF AND IN ADDITION THERETO.

Approved  
April 26, 1912.

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:*

SECTION 1. Each owner of a pew in Trinity church and each lessee or hirer of a pew for one year or longer, who professes to attend public worship therein and is in good standing in said church, shall be a member of said corporation, entitled "The Rector, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church, in Newport," and be entitled to vote in all corporation meetings and to hold office in said corporation.

SEC. 2. Any provisions in said act or the acts in amendment thereof inconsistent herewith or making other or different qualifications for membership in said corporation are hereby repealed, and this act shall take effect immediately.

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RESOLUTION authorizing the rector, church wardens, vestry, and congregation of Trinity Church to convey certain real estate.

Passed May 2  
1900

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*Resolved*, that the prayer of the petition of the rector, church wardens, vestry, and congregation of Trinity Church in Newport for leave to sell certain real estate held by the said corporation for a rectory be and the same is hereby granted, and the said corporation is hereby authorized to sell and convey the said real estate, free and clear of the said trust; and the said corporation shall receive and hold the proceeds of the said real estate for the purpose of investing the same in other real estate to be held by it upon the same terms and conditions and for the same purposes as the real estate hereby authorized to be sold was held.

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JANUARY, 1893.

577

AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF "TRINITY CHURCH IN NEWPORT." Enacted May 23, 1892.

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1 of the act entitled "An act in amendment of the charter of Trinity Church, June 1847" is hereby amended by striking out the word "fifteen," where it appears in said section and substituting therefor the word "eleven."

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

JANUARY, 1865.

271

AN ACT IN REPEAL OF AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF  
"TRINITY CHURCH IN NEWPORT."

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows :*

SECTION 1. So much of the act entitled an act in amendment of the charter of "Trinity church" in Newport, passed at the June session of the General Assembly, A. D. 1842, as authorizes the voting by proxy in all corporation meetings, is hereby repealed.

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JUNE, 1847.

44

AN ACT in amendment of the charter of Trinity Church in Newport.

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows :*

Trinity  
Church,  
Newport.

Section 1. Each owner of a pew in Trinity Church, Newport, who professes to worship in the Protestant Episcopal Church, shall be a member of said corporation, and shall be entitled to vote either in person or by proxy in all corporation meetings, and in all such meetings not less than fifteen members shall form a quorum for the transaction of any business; nevertheless, no person shall be entitled to vote, except all taxes legally assessed and become due upon the pew which qualifies such person to vote, shall have been first paid.

Sec. 2. All special meetings of said corporation shall be called by reading in said church a public notice thereof, on the Sunday next before any such meeting, and not less than four days previous thereto; which notice shall state generally, the business to be transacted.

Sec. 3. The fifth section of said charter and all acts in alteration or amendment thereof, are hereby repealed.

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JUNE, 1838.

63

in favor of the said Church.

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AN ACT in amendment of the charter of Trinity Church, in Newport.

Trinity  
Church.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted,* That each white male owner of a pew or pews, on either floor of Trinity Church, who professes to attend public worship in said Church, and whose pew or pews aforesaid qualify no other person holding a lease of the same, or in the occupation thereof, to vote according to this act—and also the lessee or hirer of a pew on the lower floor of said Church, who professes to attend public worship therein—shall be a member of said corporation during the

JUNE, 1828.

61

time he continues so qualified, and be entitled to appear and vote in all corporation meetings: and at all such meetings fifteen members at least shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for business; that no member shall be entitled to more than one vote, and that no pew shall entitle more than one person to vote at the same time: provided, nevertheless, that no lessee or hirer of a pew or pews as aforesaid, shall be entitled to vote unless he is, at the time of voting, and has been for the term of one year at least, previous to such time of voting, possessed and in the occupation of such pew or pews, or some other pew or pews in said Church, and shall have paid all taxes that have been lawfully assessed and become due against the pew or pews that may qualify him as aforesaid; and also the rent that may have become due; provided such pew or pews belong to said Church or corporation.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all future special meetings of said corporation shall be notified by reading the notice audibly and publicly on the Sunday previous to said meeting, at said Church, when the congregation is assembled for public worship, in the usual manner as heretofore, at least four days previous to such corporation meeting; which notice shall state the time and place of meeting, and the business proposed to be transacted; and no business at such meeting, except what is so proposed in said notice, shall be legal; provided, nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall affect the right to meet by adjournment of any legal meeting.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the fifth section of the said charter of Trinity Church be and the same is hereby repealed.

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AN ACT providing for the investment of certain Funds, belonging to Trinity Church, in Newport.

Trinity  
Church,  
Newport.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That the fund heretofore raised by subscription, donations, legacies or otherwise, and intended by the subscribers, donors, &c. to be a permanent fund for the better support of Trinity Church, in Newport, and now, with the interest thereon, amounting to the sum of ten thousand five hundred dollars, par value, being invested in some safe and profitable stock or stocks, or real estate, in the name and right of the minister, church, wardens, vestry and congregation of Trinity Church, in Newport, shall remain so invested, together with all sum or sums which may hereafter be raised in the way or manner aforesaid, permanently and untransferable, except by the act of the corporation at a regular meeting with notice of the business to be transacted; which act, to be valid, shall require the presence and the concurring vote of at least three fourths of the whole male members of said corporation, who shall at the time be owners of pews in said*

JUNE, 1827.

15

Church, or part owners, with authority in writing from a majority of all the part owners, to act in their stead ; one vote only to be given by any one member, or in behalf of any number of members owning one pew : and the said fund, in whatever manner the same may at any time be invested, shall remain unimpaired and undiminished by any act of said corporation ; and the accruing interest, dividends or profits thereof only, shall be at the disposal of said corporation, agreeably to the terms of the original subscriptions.

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Amend. charter  
of Trinity  
church.

On the petition of the Minister, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church, in Newport, *It is Voted and Resolved*, That the charter of incorporation of said church be so altered and amended, as the Minister or Rector of said church may attend and be present at the meetings of wardens and vestry of said church, and when so present, shall be the moderator of said meetings; any thing expressed or implied in the present charter of incorporation of said Trinity church to the contrary notwithstanding.



October, 1816.

11

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That there shall be an annual meeting of said corporation on Easter-Monday, yearly and every year, at which meeting there shall, and at any other legal meeting there may be, if vacancies should happen, elected two Church-Wardens, who shall be ex officio Vestrymen, eleven other Vestrymen, a Secretary, who shall also be Clerk of the Vestry, and such other officers as may be judged necessary. And that legal meetings of said corporation may be called at any time by the Minister of said Trinity Church, by either of the Church-Wardens, by any five Vestrymen, or any ten members of said corporation; and at any of the meetings aforesaid, any of the affairs and business of said corporation may be attended to, transacted and performed. And although said corporation should not, from any cause or circumstance whatever, hold their annual meeting on Easter-Monday, yearly and every year hereafter, yet this act shall nevertheless continue and be in full force, and officers may be elected, and the affairs and business of said corporation may be transacted and performed, at any subsequent meeting which may be called, in either of the modes before stated.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the Church-Wardens and Vestrymen, elected by said corporation, shall, for the time being, have the entire and sole control, management and disposition of all the property and funds of said corporation, in trust nevertheless, and for the use of said corporation, for the sole support and promotion of the public worship of God, as in the preamble of this act expressed, for defraying the incidental expenses thereof, and for the repairs of the Church edifice and its appurtenances: That the said corporation shall, on Easter-Monday annually, or oftener, if it should become necessary for the security of the property and funds aforesaid, elect a Treasurer, who shall keep fair and accurate accounts of the property and funds aforesaid, and of the management and disposition of the same, and shall attend, when required, and shall have a right at all times to attend the meetings of the Vestry, and shall, at every annual meeting, on Easter-Monday, make a written statement or report of the same to the said corporation; and shall, when required by a vote of said corporation, or by a vote of said Church-Wardens and Vestrymen, make further statements and reports of the same, and shall produce the books, vouchers and documents, containing the accounts and statements of the property and funds aforesaid, and the use, management and disposition of the same; which shall be open to their inspection and examination. And the Treasurer, previous to entering on the duties of his office, shall annually give satisfactory bonds to the said corporation, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his said office.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That each male owner of a pew in Trinity Church, in Newport, or lessee or hirer of the same for one year, or a longer term, and who professes to attend public worship there, shall be a member

October, 1816.

of said corporation, and be entitled to appear and vote in all corporation meetings; and that in all such meetings, eleven members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Minister of said Church shall be elected by the corporation aforesaid, at a meeting of said corporation, legally called; and the Minister by them thus elected, shall, as soon as may be, be instituted Rector, according to the office set forth for that purpose by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church aforesaid.*

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Minister so elected and instituted Rector, shall thereafter, while he continues such, be ex officio a member of said corporation, and when present, moderator thereof, at all meetings of the same: That he shall have a right, at any time, to inspect the books and records of the corporation: That it shall be his right and duty, from time to time, to state, verbally, or in writing, the condition of the affairs of the corporation, and to recommend such measures as he deems advisable for its benefit, to the meetings of the Wardens and Vestrymen, at which meetings one of the Church-Wardens, or senior Vestryman present, shall be moderator. And in all meetings of said Wardens and Vestrymen, seven members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum, each member being entitled to one vote, excepting the Moderator, who shall only be entitled to give the casting vote.*

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all donations made, or that may be made to said corporation, or that ensue or may ensue to their use, shall be strictly used and applied, according to the intentions and directions of the donors; and that all deeds and conveyances made by said corporation, shall be made by the Treasurer thereof, for the time being, when authorized by a recorded vote or resolution of the Wardens and Vestry, to which said deeds and conveyances the seal of said corporation shall be affixed.*

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever any tax or proportion of money, shall be assessed by order of said corporation, upon the pews of the said Church edifice, for the repairs of said edifice and its appurtenances, which are already or may hereafter be made, or for the expenses of said corporation, such tax or proportion of money shall be paid by the several owners of such pews, agreeably to their respective assessments, and the rules and ordinances of said corporation. And in case any owner as aforesaid shall, for the space of three months, after notice of any tax or proportion of money assessed as aforesaid, refuse or neglect to pay the same, the pews of such delinquents shall and may be sold, by order of said corporation, at public auction, for the payment and discharge of such taxes and costs; provided nevertheless, that such sale be previously*

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advertised, at least thirty days before such pews shall be offered for sale, and the surplus money (if any) after the payment of such taxes and costs, shall be lodged with the Treasurer of said corporation, to be paid over to such delinquents, or their legal representatives, on demand.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the charter aforesaid, of one thousand seven hundred and sixty nine, granted to the said Minister, Wardens and Congregation of said Trinity Church, and the subsequent amendments thereto, be and they hereby are, with the assent, and at the request of said Minister, Wardens and Congregation, repealed, abrogated and annulled. Provided nevertheless, That all acts legally done, and all responsibilities legally incurred, and all by-laws, resolves, and regulations, passed under said charter and amendments, shall be and remain in full force and virtue.*

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An ACT explanatory of the Charter to incorporate the Minister, Wardens, Vestry and Congregation, of Trinity Church, in Newport, Rhode-Island, and to enlarge the Powers thereof.

**B**E it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority Act explanatory of the Charter to Trinity Church, Newport, thereof it is enacted, That whenever any tax or proportion of money shall be assessed by order of said Corporation, upon the pews of the church edifice, for the repairs of said edifice and its appurtenances, which are already or may hereafter be made, such tax or proportions of money shall be paid by the several owners of such pews, agreeably to their respective assessments, and the rules and ordinances of said Corporation. And in case any owner as aforesaid shall, for the space of three months, after notice of any tax or proportion assessed as aforesaid, refuse or neglect to pay the same, the pews of such delinquents shall and may be sold by order of said Corporation, at public vendue, for the payment and discharge of such taxes and the costs: *Provided nevertheless,* That such sale shall be previously advertised, at least thirty days before such pews shall be offered for sale, and the surplus money, if any, after the payment of such taxes and costs, shall be lodged with the wardens of said Trinity Church, to be paid over to such delinquents, or their legal representatives, on demand.



time, not exceeding four weeks, provided a notification be then and there set up, informing to what time and place said meeting is adjourned.

Charter to Trinity Church.

WHEREAS the Minister, Church-Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church, in Newport, have preferred a petition unto this General Assembly, and for the reasons therein assigned, have prayed this Assembly to alter, amend and enlarge their original charter of incorporation, granted them in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, and to extend the powers and provisions thereof, so as to suit the present state of their concerns, to enable them with greater convenience to manage and secure the property and funds of which they are now, or may be hereafter possessed, and to promote and establish the worship of ALMIGHTY GOD, according to the discipline, rites, canons, usages, ceremonies and liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America:

Section 1. *Be it therefore enacted*, That the Minister, Church-Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of said Church be, and they and their successors forever are hereby made and constituted and confirmed to be a body corporate and politic, with perpetual succession, by the name of *The Minister, Church-Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of Trinity Church, in Newport*; and by that name shall be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered unto, to defend and to be defended against, in all Courts and places, and before all proper Judges whomsoever; to take, receive and hold all monies and other property; real or personal, by voluntary subscription, contribution, donation or otherwise, and also all legacies and devises of real and personal estate; and also to have, acquire, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels, and property of every description, not exceeding in the whole forty thousand dollars; and all and singular the estate and property aforesaid to lease, grant; convey or dispose of, in such manner as they may judge best for the interest of said corporation; to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter or renew at pleasure, with full power and authority to make and ordain all such laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, for the government of the corporation, and the better management of the affairs thereof, as they or the major part of them who may be present on due notification, may deem necessary and proper, provided the same be not repugnant to the laws of this State and the constitution and laws of the United States.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That all the funds and property now owned or possessed by said corporation, be and the same is hereby vested in, confined to and continued in the said corporation.