

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 239

H.P. 195 House of Representatives, February 4, 1987
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.
Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative TUPPER of Orrington.
Cosponsored by Senator MAYBURY of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT Relating to Organization and Powers of
2 Religious Societies.
3

4 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
5 follows:

6 13 MRSA §2982, as amended by PL 1975, c. 244, is
7 further amended to read:

8 §2982. Officers as corporations; organization and
9 powers

10 The church wardens of Episcopal churches, the
11 stewards or trustees of the United Methodist church
12 and the deacons of all other Protestant churches are
13 so far corporations as to take, in succession, all
14 grants and gifts of real and personal estate made to

1 their churches or to them and their successors. If
2 the ministers, elders or vestrymen are joined with
3 them in such grants or gifts, the 2 classes of officers
4 shall be corporations for that purpose. For the
5 purpose of organizing any such corporation, one or
6 more members of said the corporation may call a meeting
7 thereof by a notice posted upon the outer door of
8 the meetinghouse or place of public worship of their
9 parish or society at least 7 days before the time of
10 holding such meeting; or, if there is no such
11 meetinghouse or place of public worship, by a notice
12 posted in 2 public and conspicuous places in the town
13 wherein said parish or society is located. At such
14 meeting the corporation may organize, adopt a corporate
15 name and elect such officers as its bylaws shall
16 prescribe. Said These corporations are authorized to
17 may take by gift, purchase, bequest, demise or otherwise,
18 real and personal property for religious purposes,
19 and may make such contracts in relation to such estate,
20 its improvements, disposal, investment or reinvestment,
21 as they may be authorized under the rules of their church
22 or instructed by the church for which they hold estate
23 in trust to make, which contracts may be enforced by or
24 against them as in other cases. No disposal of such estate
25 shall may be made, inconsistent with the terms of the grant
26 by which it is held. Trustees of the local United Methodist
27 churches are created a corporation with all the rights
28 and privileges of corporations, subject to the restrictions
29 contained in the book of discipline of the United Methodist
30 church.
31

32

STATEMENT OF FACT

33 This bill removes certain statutory language relating
34 to organization and powers of religious societies. This
35 language makes discipline a part of the law. The book of
36 discipline is subject to change without action by the
37 Legislature and should not be incorporated by reference
38 into the law.

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