
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MEMORANDUM OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH PURSUANT TO GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 7, WITH RESPECT TO PETITION OF JAMES K. MATTHEWS, BISHOP, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, THE NEW ENGLAND AREA, AND OTHERS, AND BELDEN G. BLY, JR., FOR LEGISLATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE METHODIST CHURCH TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

December 28, 1971

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

The above named petition was transmitted to me by the Clerk of the Senate on December 10, 1971, with a request for a memorandum.

Section 40 of chapter 67 of the General Laws provides that the trustees of any society of the Methodist Church, or of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, appointed according to the discipline or usages thereof, respectively, or as such society chooses may organize and become a corporation with the powers and duties prescribed by chapter one hundred and fifty-five, subject however, to account to the quarterly conference of such society according to the aforesaid discipline and usages.

Section 1 of the bill before your honorable bodies seeks to further amend clause eleven of section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 212 of the acts of 1967, by inserting in line five the word "United" before the words "Methodist Church".

Section 2 of the bill seeks to amend chapter 67 of the General

Laws by striking out section 40, as appearing in chapter 580 of the acts of 1952, and inserting in place thereof the following new section: — *Section 40.* The trustees of any society of the United Methodist Church, or of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, appointed according to the discipline or usages thereof, respectively, or as such society chooses, may organize and become a corporation with the powers and duties prescribed by chapter one hundred and fifty-five, subject, however, to account to the charge conference of such society according to the aforesaid disciplines and usages.

Section 3 of the bill seeks to amend chapter 68 of the General Laws by striking out the words "Methodist Episcopal" in line 2 of section 1, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, and by substituting therefore the words "United Methodist".

Section 4 of the bill seeks to amend chapter 68 of the General Laws by striking out section 6, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following new section: — *Section 6:* — No conveyance of land of which a church shall be effectual to pass the same, if made by the deacons without the consent of the church or of a committee of the church appointed for that purpose, or if made by the wardens without the consent of the vestry, or if made by the trustees of the United Methodist Church without the consent of the charge conference.

Section 5 of the bill seeks to amend chapter 207 of the General Laws by inserting the word "United" in line 7, as appearing in section 1 of chapter 11 of the acts of 1965, before the words "Methodist Church".

Special legislation is required to effect the desired result.

Whether or not this should be allowed is a matter of policy within your exclusive jurisdiction, and this office expresses no opinion on the merits of the bill. No fee is required to be paid by a corporation of this type under the provisions of Chapter 3, Section 7.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. X. DAVOREN,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

By Mr. Saltonstall, a petition of James K. Matthews, Bishop, the United Method Church, the New England Area, and others, and Belden G. Bly, Jr., for legislation to change the name of the Methodist Church to the United Methodist Church. Commerce and Labor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Two.

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF THE METHODIST CHURCH TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Clause Eleven of Section 5 of chapter 59 of the
2 General Laws, as most recently amended by section 1 of
3 chapter 212 of the acts of 1967, is hereby further amended
4 by inserting in line five the word "United" before the words
5 "Methodist Church".

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 67 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 40, as appearing in chapter
3 580 of the acts of 1952, and inserting in place thereof the fol-
4 lowing new section: —

5 *Section 40.* The trustees of any society of the United Meth-
6 odist Church, or of the American Methodist Episcopal Church,
7 appointed according to the discipline or usages thereof, re-
8 spectively, or as such society chooses, may organize and be-
9 come a corporation with the powers and duties prescribed
10 by chapter one hundred and fifty-five, subject, however, to
11 account to the charge conference of such society according
12 to the aforesaid disciplines and usages.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 68 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out the words "Methodist Episcopal" in
3 line 2 of section 1, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition,
4 and by substituting therefore the words "United Methodist".

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 68 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 6, as appearing in the Ter-
3 centenary Edition, and inserting in place thereof the follow-
4 ing new section: —

5 *Section 6:* — No conveyance of land of which a church shall
6 be effectual to pass the same, if made by the deacons with-
7 out the consent of the church or of a committee of the
8 church appointed for that purpose, or if made by the wardens
9 without the consent of the vestry, or if made by the trustees
10 of the United Methodist Church without the consent of the
11 charge conference.

1 SECTION 5. Chapter 207 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting the word "United" in line 7, as appear-
3 ing in section 1 of chapter 11 of the acts of 1965, before the
4 words "Methodist Church".