

this section to enter a complaint, by any process or decree, enforce the orders of the said board in the premises.

Subject to acceptance by a majority vote.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon its passage, but no expenditure shall be made or liability incurred under the same except for preliminary surveys and estimates unless this act shall be first accepted by a vote of a majority of the legal voters of said town present and voting thereon at a legal meeting called for that purpose within two years from the passage of this act, and not more than three of said meetings shall be called each year during said years.

*Approved June 13, 1887.*

*Chap. 40* AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCORPORATION OF CHURCHES.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

Churches may be incorporated.

SECTION 1. Any church now existing or that may be hereafter organized in this Commonwealth, may be incorporated according to the provisions of this act.

Notice to be posted of time and place of meeting for incorporation.

SECTION 2. A notice signed by one or more of the members of such a church, stating the object, time and place of the meeting for the incorporation of the church, and the first election of officers under the provisions of this act, shall be posted in a conspicuous place near one of the principal entrances of the usual place of meeting of said church, at least fifteen days previous to the time for such meeting.

Election of officers.

SECTION 3. The resident members of such church of twenty-one years of age and upwards may assemble at their place of worship and by ballot elect a moderator, clerk, treasurer, a standing committee of not less than three nor more than seven members and such other officers as they may deem necessary. The clerk shall be sworn.

Church may make by-laws.

SECTION 4. The church may prescribe by its by-laws the manner in which and the officers and agents by whom the purposes of its incorporation may be carried out. When no provision is made by any vote or by-law of the church for calling meetings, they shall be called in such manner as the standing committee may direct.

Standing committee to certify the organization to the commissioner of corporations.

SECTION 5. The standing committee so elected shall certify the organization of such a church to the commissioner of corporations in such form as he shall prescribe, who with the secretary of the Commonwealth, upon payment of a fee of five dollars to the secretary, shall perform

the same duties and with the same legal effect as in the case of corporations organized under chapter one hundred and fifteen of the Public Statutes; and, except as provided in this act churches incorporated under the provisions of this act, shall have the same powers and privileges and shall be subject to the same duties, restrictions and liabilities as corporations established under said chapter one hundred and fifteen.

Provisions of P. S. 115 to apply.

SECTION 6. None but members of such a church shall be members of any such corporation, and none but resident members of such church of twenty-one years of age and upwards shall vote.

None but members of the church to be members of the corporation.

SECTION 7. The deacons of any such church, holding real or personal estate under the provisions of chapter thirty-nine of the Public Statutes, may convey any such estate to the church of which they are deacons, if incorporated under the provisions of this act, and such estate shall thereafter be held by the church, subject to the same uses and trusts as when held by said deacons.

Deacons may convey estate to the incorporated church.

SECTION 8. Any religious society connected with a church incorporated under the provisions of this act, may at any meeting in the call for which notice has been given of the object of the meeting, by a three-fourths vote, authorize one or more persons in its name and behalf to convey to such church any real or personal estate belonging to it, and such estate shall thereafter be held by the church subject to the same uses and trusts as when held by said religious society.

Religious societies may convey estate to such church.

*Approved June 13, 1887.*

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE PITTSFIELD FIRE DISTRICT AND THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE TO CONSTRUCT CERTAIN SEWERS IN THE TOWN OF PITTSFIELD.

*Chap. 405*

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. The fire district of the town of Pittsfield is hereby authorized to construct a main drain or common sewer in said fire district, from a point near the dam of Martin Van Sichler's cotton factory, to a point on or near the lands of Daniel J. Dodge, near the Boston and Albany Railroad, under the provisions of chapter one hundred and twenty of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and seventy-eight; but the board of commissioners of sidewalks, common sewers and main drains of said fire district shall not assess upon the lands benefited thereby any greater proportion of the whole expense of making said

Fire district may construct a main drain or common sewer.