

Act No. 4 of 1993**METHODIST CHURCH OF THE BAHAMAS****ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS****SECTION**

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An Act to facilitate the establishment in The Bahamas of a church to be known as the Methodist Church of The Bahamas, to establish the same as a body corporate and for other purposes connected therewith. *4 of 1993*

*[Assent 1st July, 1993]
[Commencement 2nd July, 1993]*

1. This Act may be cited as the Methodist Church of The Bahamas Act, 1993. Short title.

2. In this Act — Interpretation.

“Church” means the Methodist Church of The Bahamas referred to in section 3;

“Conference” means the governing body of the Church established under section 4;

“Deed of Church Union” means the Deed of Church Union adopted and executed pursuant to section 9;

“Participating Churches” means such of the congregations of The Bahamas District of The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas as agreed to participate in the Uniting Conference;

“Uniting Conference” means the Uniting Conference held pursuant to section 7.

Methodist
Church of The
Bahamas.

3. (1) After the execution of the Deed of Church Union, and upon the Deed being recorded in the Registry of Records, the body of Christian believers known as the Methodist Church of The Bahamas shall be recognised as autonomous.

(2) The Church shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of land and property of whatever kind, to enter into contracts and to sue and be sued in its name.

(3) The members of the Church shall be such persons as may be specified in the Deed of Church Union.

Conference.

4. (1) There shall be a Conference which shall be the governing body of the Church with authority to do all such things as are not prohibited by this Act or the Deed of Church Union.

(2) The Conference shall be constituted in accordance with the Deed of Church Union.

Doctrinal
Standards.

5. The Doctrinal Standards of the Church shall be those of the British Methodist Church formed on the 20th day of September, 1932.

Uniting with
other Christian
Churches.

6. Nothing in section 5 shall prohibit the Church from uniting with any other Christian church notwithstanding that the doctrine of that other Christian church may differ from the Doctrinal Standards of the Church.

Uniting
Conference.

7. The Participating Churches may hold, at such time and place as may be agreed by them, a conference to be known as the Uniting Conference, for the purpose of adopting and executing the Deed of Church Union.

8. (1) The members of the Uniting Conference shall be such Ministerial and lay persons as may be appointed by Participating Churches as representatives of the Participating Churches pursuant to a process of election by ballot by members of the respective congregations of the Participating Churches.

Membership and procedure of Uniting Conference.

(2) The first meeting of the Uniting Conference shall be convened by the Chairman of the Committee known as the Executive Steering Committee, established on April 9, 1991 at a special session of the Synod of The Bahamas District of The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas.

(3) The Uniting Conference may regulate its own proceedings.

9. (1) The Uniting Conference may by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members thereof adopt the Deed of Church Union which shall be the Constitution of the Church.

Adoption and execution of Deed of Church Union.

(2) Upon its adoption in accordance with subsection (1), the Deed of Church Union shall be executed by the person presiding over the Uniting Conference and by one or more representatives of each Participating Church.

10. (1) The Deed of Church Union shall declare the establishment of the Church, shall set out the Doctrinal Standards of the Church and shall contain such other provisions as the Uniting Conference may think fit with respect to the government and discipline of the Church and the management of the affairs of the Church.

Contents of Deed of Church Union.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Deed of Church Union shall provide —

- (a) for the constitution of the Conference, consisting of a General Session (comprising ministerial and lay members) and a Pastoral Session (comprising ministerial members) for the election of members and officers of the Conference (including a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and for the procedure and functions of the Conference (including the division of its functions) between the General and Pastoral Sessions;
- (b) for the membership and ministry of the Church;