

**Act No. 32 of 1875****CHURCH OF ENGLAND SYNODS**

**An Act to empower the Lord Bishop, the clergy, and the laity of the Church of England in The Bahamas to hold synods, and for other purposes.** *32 of 1875*

*[Commencement 29th April, 1875]*

WHEREAS, by an Act of Assembly of these Islands, the Church of England in The Bahamas has been prospectively disendowed: And Whereas, after the passing of the said Act, certain members of the said Church in this island associated themselves together and agreed to the formation of a representative governing body, called the “Synod of the Church of England in the diocese of Nassau,” which has since from time to time met and assembled and enacted various matters and things for the government of the Church in The Bahamas: Preamble.

AND WHEREAS the bishop, clergy, and the representative of the laity of the said Church in such synod assembled, have, by petition to the legislature, set forth that they are desirous of obtaining legislative authority to assemble in synod, and to make such regulations and ordinances for the management of their ecclesiastical affairs as they may think fit and necessary:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the members of the Communion of the Church of England in The Bahamas should, subject to the provisions of this Act, be free to make such arrangements as they think fit and necessary for the well ordering, discipline, and good government thereof, and for raising funds for the maintenance and support thereof, and also for the holding and succession of all such property as may belong thereto.

[This Act may be cited as the Church of England Synods Act.] Short title.

**1.** It shall be lawful for the bishop, clergy and laity of the Church of England in The Bahamas to meet together in and to hold assemblies, synods, or conventions, at such places, in such manner, and for such purposes in connection with their ecclesiastical affairs as they may Authorises the holding of synods, etc.

think fit; and when so met, to make, subject to the provisions of this Act, all such rules, regulations, and constitutions as to them may seem expedient, as well for the proper representation of such orders in the said assemblies, synods, or conventions as for the general management, ordering, and discipline of the same, and of the communion of the said Church, and of the officers and members thereof respectively; and also to provide for raising funds for the support of the said Church, and for the application and disposal of the property, funds, and effects which shall belong thereto:

Provided always that nothing herein contained shall authorise the imposition of any rate or tax, or the infliction of any temporal punishment, fine, or penalty on any person or persons whomsoever other than the suspension or removal from an office in or under the control of the said synod, assembly, or convention, or the making of any rule or regulation contrary to the law of The Bahamas.

First Synod to be held in Nassau.

**2.** The first diocesan synod under this Act shall be held in the city of Nassau at such time as the bishop shall fix and appoint for the purpose, such time to be not later than twelve months from the passing of this Act, and he shall cause public notice thereof to be given at least six weeks before such meeting shall be held.

Qualifications of synodmen.

**3.** Such first diocesan synod shall consist of the bishop, clergy, and representatives of the laity of the communion of the Church of England in The Bahamas, and the number of such representatives of the laity and the districts entitled to representation, together with the qualification of electors and representatives to the first synod elected under this Act, shall be the same as the number of lay representatives, electoral districts, and the qualification of electors and representatives to the body described as the synod of the Church of England in the Bahamas, from whence the petition referred to in the preamble has emanated, with this exception; the qualification of lay representatives to the first synod shall be the same as the qualification of electors thereto.

Election board.

**4.** Upon the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for the Bishop of Nassau to appoint, by a writing under his hand and episcopal seal, a board to consist of two clergymen and three laymen of the communion of the

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Church of England, being resident in the island of New Providence, which Board shall have full power and authority to fix the time or times for holding elections of synodmen for the said first synod, to appoint persons to hold such elections, to regulate the manner in which votes shall be given thereat, and which returns shall be made, and generally to exercise a superintending authority in respect of such elections.

**5.** Upon the meeting of the first synod the powers vested in the bishop, clergy, and laity, by the first section of this Act shall come into full force and effect; and thereafter all powers, authorities, and privileges thereby given and created shall vest in the said synod, and be exercised by it for the purpose therein declared:

First Synod's powers.

Provided always that nothing hereinbefore contained shall be held in any way to restrict or abridge the full exercise by the said first or any subsequent synod of the powers by the first section of this Act given, or to restrain the said first or any subsequent synod from regulating and defining the duration of the said first or any subsequent synod, or from altering the number or qualifications of the several orders of which such synods are composed or the qualifications of electors, or from dealing otherwise than is hereinbefore provided for, in respect of any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned or referred to, save and except the matters reserved in and by the proviso to the said first section.

**6.** It shall be lawful for the first or any subsequent synod assembled under the authority of this Act by any statute, ordinance, or resolution to be by such synod for that purpose passed, to nominate any number of persons being members of the said communion to act as a corporation for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, and upon such statute, ordinance, or resolution being recorded in the office of the Registrar of Records at Nassau, which record the said Registrar is hereby authorised and required to make when thereto requested, such persons and their successors to be appointed as hereinafter provided for shall become a corporation, with continuance for ever, under the style of "The Incorporated Trustees of the Church of England in the Bahamas," with full power and authority to have and to use a Common Seal, and as trustees for the said Church to receive, take, hold, or otherwise dispose of

Corporation to be nominated by the synod.

all descriptions of property, both real and personal, and shall and may be able and capable in the law to sue and be sued, answer and be answered in any court or courts or elsewhere, in all actions or causes whatsoever, for, touching, or concerning the same:

Provided always that the change, succession, and renewal of the members of the said corporation, and the constitution and government thereof, and the beneficial uses and disposal of the property to be held in trust by them as aforesaid, shall be regulated, decided and declared from time to time by the diocesan synod of the said Church.

Status of the  
Church.  
*27 of 1869.*

7. Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed in any way to affect the provisions of the 32 Victoria, chapter 27, or to confer on the said Church a status other than that enjoyed by other voluntary religious bodies.