ORDINANCE enacted by the Governor of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof.

To Promote the Building of Churches and Chapels for Christian Worship, and to provide for the Maintenance of Ministers of the Christian Religion.

[3rd August, 1847.]

WHEREAS for the advancement of the Christian Religion, and the promotion of good morals in South Australia, it is expedient to encourage the observance of public worship, and for this purpose to authorize the issue from the Public Revenue of the said Province of sums to be applied in aid of the building of churches and chapels for Christian Worship, and of the maintenance of ministers of religion:

Be it therefore Enacted, by the Governor of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof—That whenever it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Governor and Executive Council, that a population equal to fifty adult persons are desirous to erect a church or chapel for Christian worship, or a dwelling for the officiating minister thereof, at any place within the Province, and a sum not less than Fifty Pounds shall have been raised by private contribution, to be applied towards the building of such church, chapel, or minister’s dwelling, it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, by warrant under his hand, and subject to such regulations for the due appropriation and application thereof as shall from time to time be made by the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to issue from the Colonial Treasury, in aid of the undertaking, any sum of money, not exceeding the amount of the said private contribution: Provided always, that nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to authorize the issue from the Colonial Treasury,
Treasury, in aid of any church, chapel, or minister’s dwelling, of any sum exceeding One Hundred and Fifty Pounds; and that no sum shall be so issued in aid of any private contribution, until such contribution shall be wholly paid up and deposited or secured to the satisfaction of the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council: Provided further, that nothing herein contained shall prevent or be construed to prevent the appropriation for the purposes aforesaid, of any sum exceeding One Hundred and Fifty Pounds, by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council.

II. And be it Enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, by warrant under his hand as aforesaid, to authorize from time to time, the issue from the Colonial Treasury, of stipends towards the support of the ministers of religion, duly officiating in any churches or chapels, to be erected in manner aforesaid, or in any churches or chapels already erected, and of which trustees shall be appointed, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, such stipends being issued at the several rates hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, whenever it shall be certified to the Governor by the trustees or officers appointed for managing the temporalities of any church or chapel, according to the usages of the religious communion to which the same is professed to belong, in the form of the Schedule hereunto annexed, marked with the letter A, that not less than fifty sittings have been rented and paid for in any church or chapel, erected or to be erected in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance, for one whole year, commencing within one month previously to the date of such certificate, and that such sittings are bona fide intended to be occupied by persons frequenting such church or chapel, it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to issue from the Colonial Treasury, to the minister thereof, a stipend not exceeding Fifty Pounds for the year then current, and if it shall be so certified as aforesaid, that a greater number of sittings have been rented and paid for to be occupied as aforesaid, then it shall be lawful to issue in manner aforesaid to such minister a further stipend, increasing at the rate of ten shillings for every such additional sitting of the next one hundred and fifty, and at the rate of five shillings for every such additional sitting beyond that number: Provided always, that no stipend shall be increased beyond the sum of two hundred pounds in any year.

III. And be it Enacted, That whenever it shall be certified to the Governor, in manner aforesaid, that any such minister has been duly appointed to and usually officiates at least once on every Lord’s day in two such churches or chapels, not being more than ten miles distant from each other, in each of which churches or chapels there shall be not less than fifty sittings, rented and paid for, and intended to be occupied as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to issue from the Colonial Treasury to such minister, an additional stipend for and in respect of
of the church or chapel to which he shall have been last appointed, not exceeding half the above rates of stipend.

IV. And be it Enacted, That whenever it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Governor and Executive Council, that there is resident in any part of the Province, a population of one hundred adult persons, requiring pastoral superintendence, and that there is no church or chapel erected, or likely within one year to be erected, at which such persons can reasonably be expected to attend, it shall be lawful for the Governor, in manner aforesaid, and subject to such regulations for the due application thereof, as from time to time may be made with the advice of the Executive Council, to issue from the Colonial Treasury, towards the maintenance of a minister of religion, or missionary, for the spiritual care of such persons, any sum not exceeding Fifty Pounds in any one year: Provided an amount equal to the sum so to be issued shall previously have been raised by private contribution, and deposited or secured for such purpose to the satisfaction of the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council.

V. Provided always, and be it Enacted, That once at least in every year for which the stipend of any minister or missionary shall be issued as aforesaid, such proof shall be produced to the Governor and Executive Council as they shall require, of the sufficient and regular performance of the duties in respect of which such stipend shall be respectively issued; and if it shall appear to the Governor and Executive Council, that the said duties have been culpably or wilfully neglected, it shall be lawful for the Governor and Executive Council to withdraw the said stipend for such time as shall seem proper.

VI. And be it Enacted, That before any sum of money shall be issued from the Colonial Treasury towards the building of any church, chapel, or minister's dwelling in the manner aforesaid, trustees shall be nominated and appointed in pursuance of this Ordinance; and that the whole real estate in fee simple, in the site of such church, chapel, or minister's dwelling, and of any lands, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, shall be conveyed to the said trustees, upon trust for the erection, maintenance, and repair of such church, chapel, or minister's dwelling and appurtenances, and for the provision out of the revenues belonging to or arising from the use of the said church or chapel, lands, hereditaments, and appurtenances, in such manner as shall be lawfully appointed, of all things necessary for the celebration of Divine Worship and Service therein, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance; and to the said Trustees shall be issued under such regulations for the due appropriation and application thereof, as hereinbefore mentioned, all such sums of money as by the provisions of this Ordinance are authorized to be issued in aid of the erection of any church, chapel, or minister's dwelling.

VII. And be it Enacted, That such trustees be appointed in manner
manner following:—That is to say—Whenever any number of persons shall, by private subscription, contribute any sum not less than Fifty Pounds, for or towards erecting or providing a church or chapel, or minister's dwelling, land, or appurtenances thereto belonging, it shall and may be lawful for the said subscribers to elect by plurality of votes, any number of trustees, not less than three, nor more than five, subject to the approval of the Governor and Executive Council; and such election shall take place at a meeting of the subscribers, of the time and place of holding which, at least fourteen days' previous notice shall have been given by publication in the South Australian Government Gazette; and every person having subscribed and paid One Pound towards the erection of any such church, chapel, or minister's dwelling (if any connected therewith), and being also a member of the church or religious persuasion to which the same belongs, shall be entitled to vote at all elections of trustees for the same, until such church or chapel shall have been completed.

VIII. And be it Enacted, That every person so to be nominated or elected a trustee, shall be a member of the church or religious persuasion in behalf of which he is appointed a trustee, frequenting its public services, and not known to impugn publicly any of its doctrines; and willing to accept and act in the execution of such trust.

IX. And be it Enacted, That any such trustee as aforesaid, who shall leave the Province, and shall be absent therefrom more than six months in succession, or who shall be a confirmed lunatic, or found not to be qualified as hereinbefore mentioned, shall and may be removed from his office by the remaining trustees, or the greater number of them, at a meeting of trustees held for that purpose, after at least fourteen days' previous notice thereof shall have been given to all the trustees within the Province.

X. And be it Enacted, That whenever and as often as any trustee, nominated or elected under the provisions aforesaid, shall die, disclaim, or resign his office with the consent of his co-trustee, or shall be removed as aforesaid, the surviving or continuing trustees shall forthwith call a meeting of the subscribers, if the church or chapel shall not have been then completed or opened for Divine Service, or of the seat-holders therein, after that period (as the case may require) for the purpose of electing a new trustee in the place of the one so dying, disclaiming, or desiring to resign, or removed as aforesaid; and the election of such new trustee shall at all times before the completion or opening of such church or chapel be made by the subscribers thereto, and shall at all times after the completion or opening thereof, be made by the seat-holders, and the same notice shall be given of the time and place of the said meeting; and the same proceedings shall be observed in all other respects as to the election of such trustee, as upon the original nomination or election of trustees: Provided however, that no trustee shall be permitted to resign his office until he
he shall duly have accounted to the satisfaction of his co-trustees, for all sums of money at any time received by him in his said trust.

XI. And be it Enacted, That if the surviving or continuing trustees, appointed under the provisions aforesaid, shall not within one month after the death, disclaimer, resignation, or removal of any trustee, give public notice in manner last aforesaid of a meeting of subscribers, or seat-holders as the case may be, for the election of a new trustee, it shall and may be lawful for any six of the subscribers, or seat-holders, upon giving fourteen days' public notice in manner aforesaid, to assemble a meeting, as the case may be, of the subscribers, or seat-holders, being members as aforesaid, and to proceed to the election of a new trustee: And if no such meeting be held, nor election proceeded with, within two months after the death, disclaimer, resignation, or removal of any trustee as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, by writing under his hand, to be enrolled in pursuance of this Ordinance, to nominate and appoint a fit and proper person, being qualified as aforesaid, to be such trustee.

XII. And be it Enacted, That every new trustee to be nominated as aforesaid, pursuant to this Ordinance, shall become jointly with the continuing or surviving trustees or trustee, a trustee of the site of the church, chapel, minister's dwelling, lands, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereto belonging, in respect whereof he shall be so nominated; and, upon such nomination being approved by the Governor and Executive Council, and being by direction of the Governor, by writing under his hand, enrolled in the General Registry Office, pursuant to this Ordinance, the whole legal estate in the same shall, by force of this Ordinance, and without any conveyance, become vested in possession in the new trustee, jointly with the continuing or surviving trustees or trustee, if any, or else in the new trustee or trustees alone, upon the same trusts as in the original deed declaring the trust thereof.

XIII. Provided always and be it Enacted, That notwithstanding anything contained in this Ordinance, it shall be lawful for the subscribers jointly contributing any sum not less than Fifty Pounds towards erecting any such church or chapel of the United Church of England and Ireland, or minister's dwelling, subject to such conditions as to them shall seem fit, and with the consent of the Bishop, within whose diocese the same may be situate, to nominate such Bishop, and his successors, to be the sole trustee and successive trustees of such church or chapel and minister's dwelling, with any lands, hereditaments, and appurtenances which may be thereunto respectively annexed, for the purposes of this Ordinance; and upon such nomination being declared to the Governor and Executive Council, the site of such church, chapel, minister's dwelling, lands, and hereditaments respectively, shall be conveyed to the said Bishop and his successors upon trusts herein mentioned; and such conveyance being, by direction of the Governor, by writing under his hand, enrolled
enrolled pursuant to this Ordinance, the whole legal estate in fee simple in the said hereditaments, with their appurtenances, shall by force of this Ordinance, vest in possession in the said Bishop and his successors, as sole and successive trustees, upon the trusts aforesaid, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance; and such sum or sums of money shall be issued to him and them from the Colonial Treasury, towards the building of any such church, chapel, or minister's dwelling, of the said united church, as it may be lawful to issue to trustees, under the provisions of this Ordinance.

XIV. Provided always and be it Enacted, That nothing herein contained respecting the mode of appointment of trustees, or the declaration of any uses respectively, shall affect any existing trust or right whatever; and that if any such mode of election of trustees, or declaration of uses, shall be inconsistent with the customs or usages of any religious denomination, such customs and usages may be followed.

XV. Provided also, and be in Enacted, That whenever any appointment shall be made or trusts declared, otherwise than as herein expressly authorized, the deed of conveyance or deed of trust to trustees for the purposes of this Ordinance, setting forth therein, or by reference to a model deed of the religious denomination to which the same is professed to belong, the mode of appointing trustees or other officers, by whatsoever name they may be known, for managing the temporalities, the provision for creating a succession of such trustees or officers, and for defining the manner in which the trusts are to be fulfilled, shall be produced to the Governor and Executive Council, and proved to their satisfaction to be in terms which are recognized and established by or in accordance with the usages of the religious denomination to which they are professed to belong; and thereupon such deed of conveyance or deed of trust, and model deed (if any), shall be directed by the Governor, by writing under his hand, to be enrolled in the General Registry Office, pursuant to this Ordinance: And from and after such enrolment every such conveyance, deed of trust, and model deed so enrolled, shall have the same force and effect as if the particular clauses and provisions thereof, respecting the mode of appointing trustees or other officers, of creating a succession of such trustees or officers, and of defining the manner in which the trusts are to be fulfilled, had been herein inserted; and on every appointment of any new trustee or officer under the powers contained in any such deed, such appointment having been proved to the satisfaction of the Governor and Executive Council to have been duly made, a memorial of the name of such trustee or officer shall be, by direction of the Governor, in writing under his hand, enrolled in the General Registry Office in pursuance of this Ordinance; and from and after such enrolment, the legal estate of the church or chapel, minister's dwelling, or other hereditaments as the case may be, shall, by force of this Ordinance, and without any conveyance, vest in possession in every such trustee or officer, either solely or jointly with the continuing or surviving trustees,
tees, or trustee or officer, if any, as the case may be, upon the same trusts as in the original conveyance.

XVI. And be it Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the trustees appointed in respect of any church or chapel, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, or for the major part of them, and they are hereby authorized and required to set apart one-fourth part of the whole number of sittings contained in the same, to be appropriated, free of any charge whatsoever, to the use and accommodation of persons choosing to occupy the same during the time of the celebration of public worship, or of any rite or ordinance pertaining thereto; and also one pew, containing not more than six sittings, nor less than four, for the use and occupation, free from all charges, of the family or household of the minister officiating in such church or chapel; and it shall and may be lawful for such trustees, or the major part of them, and they are hereby authorized and required, by themselves or officers appointed for that purpose according to the usages of the religious denomination to which they belong, to assess and fix equitably the annual rent or rate for each pew or sitting in every such church or chapel, with the exception of such pews and sittings as are hereinbefore declared to be free from charge, and to make agreements and contracts with any persons desirous to hire or engage the same according to such assessed rent or rate.

XVII. And be it Enacted, That, in estimating the majority of seat-holders at any meeting held for the purposes of this Ordinance, and in taking the votes of seat-holders thereat (which votes may be given in person, or by causing to be presented to the Chairman a voting paper signed by each seat-holder), every individual shall be entitled to one vote in respect of each seat or sitting holden by him: Provided that no person shall in any case have more than five votes: Provided also, that no person shall at any meeting be entitled to vote in respect of any seat or sitting the rent of which shall be then due and unpaid.

XVIII. And be it Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the minister duly appointed to officiate in any church or chapel under this Ordinance, during the continuance of his office, to have free access and admission to and into such church or chapel, and the burial ground belonging thereto, and every part thereof respectively, at all times, as he shall think fit, and freely to exercise his spiritual functions therein respectively, without any hindrance or disturbance of the trustees of the same, or any person whatever; and such officiating minister shall and may, in like manner, during such continuance in office, freely use, have, possess, and enjoy, the minister's dwelling, garden, appurtenances, and glebe, belonging to such church or chapel, and receive, have, and take the rents, profits, and issues, and every part thereof respectively: Provided always, that no such liberty of access and admission to any church, chapel, or burial ground, or the possession and enjoyment of any house of residence as aforesaid, nor occupation of the same for any length of time whatever, shall be construed
construed to confer any right of property in the same upon the minister or any other parties, as against the trustees thereof.

XIX. And be it Enacted, That it shall be lawful for any trustees appointed in manner mentioned in this Ordinance, to accept and take from persons willing to give the same, any lands or hereditaments adapted for the site of a church, chapel, or minister’s dwelling, with a garden and other appurtenances therunto, or any lands or hereditaments adapted for the purposes of a burial ground; and such land and hereditaments may be holden and transferred to new trustees upon the trusts for which the same may have been given, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, so far as applicable thereto.

XX. And be it Enacted, That every church, chapel, and minister’s dwelling, in the building of which any public moneys shall have been expended, under this Ordinance, shall, with their respective appurtenances, be and continue to be, for ever dedicated to the purposes and holden solely for the uses authorized by this Ordinance: Provided, that if any such church or chapel shall have ceased to be applied to such uses, or if Divine Service has not been performed in any such church or chapel at least six times during one year, it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, by notice published in the South Australian Government Gazette, to require the surviving trustees, if any, or the parties in the actual occupation of such church or chapel, to refund to the Colonial Treasurer the amount of public moneys which shall have been issued in aid of the building of such church or chapel under the provisions of this Ordinance, within one month from and after the date of such notice; and if such amount shall be so refunded, such church or chapel, minister’s dwelling, and all lands, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereto belonging, shall thenceforth cease to be subject to the provisions of this Ordinance; and if such amount shall not be so refunded, it shall be lawful for the Governor by like notice published as aforesaid, to call a meeting to be held not less than fourteen days from the date of such notice, at the said church or chapel, or some convenient place in the neighborhood thereof, of all persons desirous to contribute to the maintenance thereof, and to the support of a minister to officiate therein, to elect new trustees for such church or chapel, in pursuance of this Ordinance, and it shall thereupon be lawful for all persons present at such meeting who shall then previously have subscribed One Pound towards the maintenance of such church or chapel, or who shall then be seat-holders, or offer to rent any sitting in the same for one whole year, or for the major part of such persons then present, to declare that such church or chapel has fallen into disuse, and to elect in any manner authorized by this Ordinance new trustees for such church or chapel for carrying into effect the purposes of this Ordinance according to the laws and usages of any church or religious persuasion which shall be determined by and at such meeting; and the names of such trustees and of such church or religious
XXI. And be it Enacted, That every deed of conveyance, and deed declaring trusts, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, as well as a memorial of every appointment of trustees made in pursuance thereof, shall, on such approval or proof as by this Ordinance is required, be, by direction of the Governor, in writing under his hand, enrolled in the General Registry Office of the Province, in a book to be kept for the purposes of this Ordinance; and the Registrar-General, or other officer in that behalf lawfully appointed, shall accordingly enrol every such deed or appointment, at the request of any party presenting such direction of the Governor, which enrolment shall, in the absence of fraud, be conclusive evidence that such appointment has been duly made; and any such deed or memorial of appointment shall be valid and sufficient in the form, or to the effect of the Schedules marked B and C respectively.

XXII. And be it Enacted, That no stipend shall in any case be issued, under the authority of this Ordinance to any minister whose appointment shall not have been proved to the satisfaction of the Governor and Executive Council to have been made in accordance with the laws and principles of the religious denomination to which such minister belongs, and that no stipend shall be continued in any case to any minister after it shall have been certified to the Governor, by the proper authority of the church or persuasion to which such minister belongs, that he has been suspended or removed from office, or has ceased to be in the actual performance of duty as minister of the church or place in respect of which such stipend was payable.

XXIII. And be it Enacted, That the registered trustees of every church or chapel, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, and every person to whom any public moneys shall be issued under the authority of the same, shall annually, on or before the thirty-first day of March, present to the Governor, full and true statements, accounts, and reports of the moneys expended, and for what purpose, the names of the minister and office-bearers of each such church or chapel, and how frequently Divine Service is usually performed therein; and all such other particulars as shall be necessary for explaining the manner in which this Ordinance has been carried into effect; and such statements, accounts, and reports, together with an official return
return certified under the authority of Government, of all ministers and missionaries to whom, and of all churches and chapels in respect of which, aid has been granted from the public moneys under this Ordinance, and of the sums so issued, shall be by the Governor laid before the Legislative Council, as soon as may be after the then next assembling thereof.

XXIV. And be it Enacted, That in the construction of this Ordinance, the word “minister” shall be taken to mean any minister qualified to solemnize marriages according to the Laws of the Province in force for the time being; and that in estimating the number of “adults,” every person above the age of fourteen shall be reckoned, and that two children under that age, and above the age of six years shall be reckoned as equivalent to one adult person, and either of the parents, or any guardian or near friend of such children, shall and may be taken for the purposes of this Ordinance to represent such children.

XXV. And be it Enacted, That this Ordinance shall commence and take effect from and after the passing hereof, and that the same shall be construed to authorize the issue of the public moneys for the purposes aforesaid, for three financial years only, commencing on the first day of April next.

FREDK. H. ROBE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Passed the Legislative Council, this Third day of August, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-seven.

W. L. O'HALLORAN,
Clerk of Council.
SCHEDULE A.

RETURN of seat-renters in the church (or chapel) of the year commencing ____________.

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We, the undersigned (1) of the aforesaid church (2) do hereby certify that the above list of persons, who rent seats in the same, is correct; that we believe such sittings to be bona fide intended to be occupied by persons frequenting the said church (2); that we have received the amount of rent set opposite the respective names; that the church is in good repair, and fit for the ministration of Divine Service, and that the Rev. is the duly appointed and officiating minister thereof.

(1) Trustees or other officers, as the case may be. (2) Or place of worship.

SCHEDULE B.

Form of Conveyance for the purposes of this Ordinance.

Know all men by these presents, that in pursuance of an Ordinance enacted by the Governor of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, "To promote the Building of Churches and Chapels for Christian Worship, and to provide for the maintenance of Ministers of the Christian Religion," and in consideration of the sum of (1) do hereby grant, bargain, sell, and release unto (2) being respectively trustees nominated and appointed under and in pursuance of the said Ordinance, and to their heirs and successors, all that (3), to hold unto the said

heirs and successors for ever, upon trust,

(1) Consideration. (2) Trustees' names. (3) Parcels.
trust, [for the erection, maintenance, and repair, of (4)] and for the provision of the revenues belonging to or arising out of the same, in such manner as shall be lawfully appointed, of all things necessary for the celebration of Divine Worship there,] according to the usages of the (5), and subject to the provisions of the aforesaid Ordinance. In witness whereof have hereunto set hand and seal, the day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight.

Signed, sealed, and delivered, in the presence of

Approved, and directed to be enrolled pursuant to the Ordinance.

(Governor's Signature.)

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(4) When the conveyance is not of the site of a church, insert, instead of the words in brackets, the following, as the case may require, viz.:

MINISTER'S DWELLING.

Upon trust for the appropriation thereof as the site of a dwelling-house, garden, and other appurtenances, for the minister duly appointed and officiating in the church erected at , and known as

GLEBE LAND.

Upon trust for the appropriation thereof as a glebe, annexed to the Church erected at , and known as

BURIAL GROUND.

Upon trust for the appropriation thereof as a place for the interment of the dead, annexed to the church erected at , and known as

(5) Name of the religious denomination.

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SCHEDULE C.

Form of Memorial for Enrolment of new Trustee.

In pursuance of an Ordinance to “Promote the Building of Churches and Chapels for Christian Worship, and to provide for the maintenance of Ministers of the Christian Religion.” having been appointed a trustee of (2) in the place of (3) and such appointment having been approved by the Governor and Executive Council (or proved to the satisfaction of the Governor and Executive Council, to have been duly made, as the case may be), I hereby direct the said (4) to be duly enrolled as a trustee of such (5) pursuant to the said Ordinance. (Governor's Signature.)

(1) Name of new trustee.
(2) The church, chapel, &c., as the case may be, and the religious denomination to which it belongs.
(3) Name of old trustee.
(4) Name of new trustee.
(5) Church, chapel, &c., as the case may be.