

## No. 304.

## AN ACT

To amend an act, approved the fifth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen (Pamphlet Laws, four hundred thirty-five), entitled "An act to authorize the courts of common pleas of any county, when any individual church within the county has become inactive or extinct, by reason of there being no resident or active trustees representing it, or otherwise, and the property of the church is liable to be wasted or destroyed, to appoint the trustees of the State body or organization representative of the denomination of which said church was a member as trustees for said church, to hold and dispose of the title to the property owned by said church, and defining the procedure thereon"; authorizing the said courts to appoint, as trustees for the property owned or held by any church, board, or agency of any religious organization, the trustees or body corporate of the superior judicatory with which the church has been connected, when the territory covered by the said judicatory is within the State, or any other appropriate board or agency of such religious organization, if duly incorporated under the laws of any State of the United States.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the act, approved the fifth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen (Pamphlet Laws, four hundred thirty-five), entitled "An act to authorize the courts of common pleas of any county, when any individual church within the county has become inactive or extinct, by reason of there being no resident or active trustees representing it, or otherwise, and the property of the church is liable to be wasted or destroyed, to appoint the trustees of the State body or organization representative of the denomination of which said church was a member as trustees for said church, to hold and dispose of the title to the property owned by said church, and defining the procedure thereon," which reads as follows:—

"Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That when any individual church shall become inactive or extinct, by reasons of there being no resident or active trustees representing it, or otherwise, the court of common pleas of the county wherein said church is located may appoint as trustees of said church the trustees of the State body or organization representative of the denomination of which said church was a member, to hold and dispose of the title to the property of said church.

"Section 2. Upon the presentation of a petition to the court of common pleas of any county, or one of the judges thereof in vacation, by any person a member of said church, or a member of the State body or organization representative of the same denomination in the State, of which said church was a member, setting forth that any individual church in said county has become inactive or extinct, by reason of no active or resident trustees representing it, or otherwise, and that its property is liable to be wasted or destroyed; the said court, or a judge thereof during vacation, shall grant a rule to show cause why the prayer of the petition

Churches and  
religious organ-  
izations.

Act of June 5,  
1913 (P. L. 435),  
cited for amend-  
ment.

shall not be granted, and require a copy of the petition and rule to be published for four successive weeks in at least one newspaper, of the county where said church is located, of general circulation. And upon full hearing of the matter shall make such order in the case as shall be most likely to preserve the property of said church, in the interests of the denomination within the State," is hereby amended to read as follows:—

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That when any individual church, *board, or agency of any religious organization* shall become inactive or extinct, by reason of there being no resident or active trustees representing it or otherwise, the court of common pleas of the county wherein said church, *board, or agency* is located may appoint, as trustees of said church, *board, or agency, the trustees or body corporate of the superior judicatory with which such church has been connected, when the territory covered by the said superior judicatory is within the State, or the trustees of the State body or organization representative of the denomination of which said church was a member, or any other appropriate board or agency of such religious organization, if duly incorporated under the laws of any State of the United States, to take, to administer, hold, and dispose of the title to the property of said church.*

Section 2. Upon the presentation of a petition to the court of common pleas of any county, or one of the judges thereof in vacation, by any person, a member of said church, *board, or agency, or a member of the superior judicatory with which such church, board, or agency has been connected, or a member of the State body or organization representative of the denomination of which said church, board, or agency was a member or agency, setting forth that any individual church, board, or agency in said county has become inactive or extinct by reason of no active or resident trustees or body corporate representing it or otherwise, and that its property is liable to be wasted or destroyed, the said court, or a judge thereof during vacation, shall grant a rule to show cause why the prayer of the petition shall not be granted, and require a copy of the petition and rule to be published for four successive weeks in at least one newspaper, of the county where said church, board, or agency is located, of general circulation. And upon full hearing of the matter, shall make such order in the case as shall be most likely to preserve the property of said church, board, or agency in the interests of the denomination, within the State or elsewhere, according to the uses to which it was intended to be devoted.*

When church, or religious organization becomes extinct or inactive.

Court may appoint trustees.

To administer property.

Petition for appointment.

Rule.

Advertisement.

Decree.

APPROVED—The 17th day of May, A. D. 1921.

WM. C. SPROUL