
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2023 Wisconsin Act 252
[2023 Senate Bill 687]

**Property of the Church of Christ
and the Christian Church**

BACKGROUND

Wisconsin law allows for the members of any church or society of any religious sect or denomination to organize a corporation for religious, charitable, or educational purposes. Such a corporation may receive, purchase, and hold real and personal property for the purposes of its incorporation. The secular business affairs of such corporations must be managed and administered by the corporation's board of trustees.

State law specifies what happens to the property of a local religious society (or church) of the denomination known as the Church of Christ or the Christian Church becomes defunct or is dissolved. Prior law provided that if any local religious society that is part of this denomination, which accepts the **Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association** as its missionary organization, became defunct or was dissolved, the property of this local religious society would be vested in the Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association. If the local religious society reincorporated, however, within three years from the date it became defunct or dissolved, then the property at the time of dissolution vested in this new corporation.

A few years ago, the Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association merged with Crossroads College. The surviving entity was named Crossroads College. As a result, the Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association no longer exists.

2023 WISCONSIN ACT 252

2023 Wisconsin Act 252 changes the accepted missionary organization of the denomination known as the Church of Christ or the Christian Church. Under the act, the accepted missionary organization of this denomination is **Crossroads College, or any predecessor or successor organization of Crossroads College**. Similarly, under the act, if a local religious society of this denomination becomes defunct or is dissolved, the property of the local religious society vests in Crossroads College, or any successor of Crossroads College. If the local religious society reincorporates within three years from the date when it became defunct or dissolved, the property vests with the new corporation.

Effective date: March 31, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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