

No. 162.

AN ACT

To incorporate the German Reformed congregation of the borough of Lebanon, and its vicinity.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the members of the German Reformed congregation of the borough of Lebanon and its vicinity, be and the same are hereby created and erected into one body politic and corporate in deed and in law, by the name, style and title of "the German Reformed congregation of the borough of Lebanon and its vicinity," and by the same name shall have perpetual succession, and be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all courts of law and elsewhere, and shall be able and capable in law, and in equity, to take, purchase, hold and receive, to them and their successors, in trust for, and to the use of the said congregation, lands, tenements, goods and chattels, of whatsoever kind, nature or quality, real, personal or mixed, which are now, or shall, or may at any time hereafter become the property of the said congregation, or body corporate, by purchase, gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, devise, bequest or otherwise, from any person or persons whomsoever capable of making the same, and the same to grant, bargain, sell, improve or dispose of, for the use of the said congregation, as may be directed by a majority of such persons as are qualified to vote by the fourth section of this act, that may be present at a meeting to be held for that purpose; and generally adopt all such matters and things, as may be lawful to be done for the well being and due management of the said church and congregation, of which said meeting, at least two weeks notice shall be given from the pulpit, or in any public manner the trustees, or a majority of them, shall direct: *Provided*, That the yearly value or income of the said estates shall not, at any time, exceed three thousand dollars.

SECTION 2. The business of the said corporation shall be conducted by five trustees, of whom three shall be a quorum, who shall choose from among their number, a president and a secretary, and appoint a treasurer, who shall receive and account for all moneys coming into his hands belonging to the corporation, and who shall, if required by the trustees, give security for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in him, and shall have his accounts annually settled by the trustees, to be laid before, and approved of by the congregation, at their annual election of trustees, and may appoint such other officers as the said trustees, or a majority of them may, from time to time, deem necessary for the better government of the secular affairs of the said congregation; but no compensation shall be allowed to such officers, unless sanctioned by a majority of the members of the congregation entitled to vote, agreeably to the fourth section of this act, present, at a meeting thereof.

SECTION 3. The following named persons shall be trustees, until others are, or shall be elected as is hereinafter provided, viz:—Jacob Arndt, Leonard Greenawalt, Christopher Riechert, Philip Shaalk, senior, and John W. Gloninger, to continue in office until the first day of January, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, on

Name.

Powers and privileges.

Proviso.

Quorum.

Officers.

Trustees.

which day, except when it occurs on the Sabbath, and then on the succeeding day, the male members of the said congregation, qualified to vote by the fourth section of this act, shall elect five persons to serve as trustees, one of whom shall serve five years, one four years, one three years, one two years, and one for one year; the term of service to be designated by the electors, on their ballots, and their places respectively shall be supplied at the annual election, to be held for that purpose, on that day in every year thereafter, by the election of one person to serve for five years: *Provided*, No person shall be eligible as a trustee, unless he is a citizen of this commonwealth, and is a member of the German Reformed church by confirmation, according to the constitution of the synod of the German Reformed church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, and who shall have paid his contribution towards the discharge of the annual expenses of the congregation according to his ability, within one year: *And provided further*, If the congregation neglect, on the day of the annual election, to hold their election as is herein directed, the said corporation shall not be dissolved; but a majority of the trustees remaining in office may appoint any subsequent time, not exceeding one month, at which the election may be held to supply said vacancies, or such as may occur by death or otherwise, the time and place of which, at least two weeks notice to the congregation shall be given, by announcement from the pulpit, or in any other public manner a majority of the remaining trustees may direct: *And provided further*, In case the trustees shall neglect or refuse to call meetings, or hold elections as is directed in this act, then ten members entitled to vote, agreeably to the fourth section of this act, may call such meetings for the transaction of business stated, or for the purpose of holding such elections, by giving two weeks notice of the time and place thereof, except in the dismissal of the pastor, or any officer, when twenty members by confirmation, according to the constitution of the synod of the German Reformed church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, and who shall have respectively contributed towards the discharge of the annual expenses of the congregation, according to their ability, within one year, shall be necessary to call a meeting for that purpose.

Annual election.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Notice of election.

Proviso.

SECTION 4. Any male member of the said congregation by confirmation, according to the constitution of the synod of the German Reformed church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, or any contributing member, who is not a member of another congregation, and who shall have paid towards the discharge of the yearly expenses of the congregation, according to his ability, within one year, and no others, shall be entitled to vote at the elections or meetings of the said congregation; of all which elections, at least two weeks notice shall be given by announcement from the pulpit, or in any other public manner a majority of the trustees may direct, except such meetings or elections as are otherwise provided for in this act.

Membership.

SECTION 5. The consistory shall be composed of the pastor, for the time being, four elders and four deacons, of whom two elders and two deacons to serve two years, shall be elected at the annual election to be held by the corporation, on the first day of January in every year, except when it occurs on the Sabbath, and then on the succeeding day, and of whom five shall be a quorum, who shall choose from among their number, a president and a secretary: *Provided*, That in case of vacancy by death or otherwise, among the elders or deacons, a majority of the male members of the congregation present, at a meeting to be convened for the purpose by the trustees, agreeably to the fourth section of this act, may elect a person or persons to supply the same, until the

Consistory.

Proviso.

Vacancy.

Proviso. next election : *Provided further*, That no one shall be elected an elder or deacon, who is not a confirmed member of the German Reformed church, or who has not been publicly admitted to membership; and such members only, as are qualified to vote for pastor, agreeably to the sixth section of this act, shall be entitled to vote for elders and deacons : *And provided further*, That the present elders and deacons shall continue in office for the time for which they were elected.

Pastor. SECTION 6. The pastor of the congregation who must be a member of the synod of the German Reformed church in the United States, shall be invited by the consistory or a majority of them, or upon their neglect or refusal, by a majority of the male members qualified to vote for pastor, who may be present at a meeting to be held for that purpose, notice of the time and place of which, not exceeding two weeks, shall be given; and the pastor shall be elected by a majority of the male members, by confirmation, according to the constitution of the synod of the German Reformed church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, and who shall have respectively contributed within one year, according to their ability, towards the annual expenses of the congregation, and may be present at a meeting to be held for that purpose, after two weeks' notice given as directed in the fourth section of this act: *And it is provided*, That the Bible and Heidelberg Catechism, or an extract from it, authorized by the synod of the German Reformed church in the United States, shall be used by the pastor in the instruction of the youth.

Proviso.

Discharged. SECTION 7. The pastor of the congregation, or any officer thereof, may be discharged from his office by a majority of the male members by confirmation, according to the constitution of the synod of the German Reformed church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, and who shall have respectively contributed within one year, according to their ability, towards the annual expenses of the congregation, and may be present at a meeting to be held for that purpose, and to be called by the consistory, upon the written request, stating the object and design to be for that purpose, of twenty members qualified as aforesaid; at which meeting, the vote shall be taken by ballot, by three members appointed by the members present entitled to vote, and two weeks' notice of the time and place of said meeting shall be given by announcement from the pulpit, or in any other public manner: *Provided*, In case of absence or neglect, or refusal of the consistory to call such meeting, then twenty members qualified as aforesaid, shall have the right to call the same, giving at least two weeks' public notice thereof.

Proviso.

Rules. SECTION 8. The said trustees and their successors, or a majority of them, shall have power at all times, to adopt, alter, amend, and enforce such rules for the discipline of the members of the congregation, as shall be sanctioned by two-thirds of the members present, at a meeting to be held, of which two weeks' notice shall be given, agreeably to the directions of the fourth section of this act: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this act shall be so construed as to prevent the said trustees or their successors, from expelling any member, according to the constitution of the synod of the German Reformed church in the United States, and by such expulsion, depriving him or her, of all rights and privileges hereby granted.

Proviso.

By-laws. SECTION 9. The said trustees and their successors, or a majority of them, shall have full power to enact and enforce such by-laws and ordinances for their own government, and for the regulation and transaction of the secular business of said corporation, as shall be sanctioned by a majority of the members of the congregation present, at a meeting to be

neld agreeably to the directions of the fourth section of this act; and to make, use, and have a common seal, and the same to break, alter, and Seal. renew at pleasure; and shall have power also to change the time of holding the general election, if the same shall be deemed advisable by a majority of the members qualified to vote, present at a meeting convened agreeably to the directions of the fourth section of this act: *Provided*, Proviso. That the said trustees or their successors, shall not contract any debt or debts exceeding twenty dollars, or in any wise incur the real estate Debts limited. belonging to the congregation, without the consent of a majority of the male members thereof entitled to vote as aforesaid, present at a meeting to be convened for the purpose, by the trustees or a majority of them, of the time and place, of which at least two weeks' notice shall be given by announcement from the pulpit, or in any other public manner: *Pro-* Proviso. *vided further*, That the said rules and by-laws and ordinances, and all acts of the said trustees, framed, enacted and promulgated, shall not be contrary to this charter, nor to the constitution and laws of this commonwealth or of the United States.

FINDLEY PATTERSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM P. WILCOX,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

FRS. R. SHUNK.

No. 163.

A N A C T

To authorize the governor to incorporate a company to erect a bridge over the river Clarion, at or near Callensburg, in the county of Clarion.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same.* That Henry Alexander, Abraham Frampton, Frederick G. Crary, Samuel Commissioners. F. Dale, Samuel F. Plumer, Paul Neely, J. B. Reynolds and Alexander Wilson, senior, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to do and perform the several duties hereinafter mentioned, that is to say: They shall, on or before the first day of April next, procure one or more books for taking subscription of stock, and shall write therein as follows: "We whose names are hereunto subscribed, do promise to Form of subscrip- pay to the president, managers and company, of the Callensburg bridge tion. company, in the county of Clarion, the sum of twenty dollars for every share of stock in said company set opposite to our respective names, in such manner and proportions, and at such times and places as may be determined by the president and managers, in pursuance of an act of assembly, entitled 'An Act to authorize the governor to incorporate a company to erect a bridge over the river Clarion, at or near Callensburg,