

No. 76.

AN ACT

Altering and amending the charter of the German Reformed congregation of Heidelberg township, Dauphin county, now Jackson township, Lebanon county, and commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- 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 a corporation is hereby erected by the name, style and title, of the German Reformed congregation of Jackson township, Lebanon county; and by the same name shall have perpetual succession, and shall be able to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, in all courts of law and elsewhere, and shall be able and capable in law and equity to take, hold and receive, to them and their successors, for the use of said corporation, lands, tenements, goods and chattels, of whatsoever kind, nature or quality, real, personal or mixed, which is now, or shall hereafter become the property of the said corporation, or to be held for their use by gifts, grants, bargains, sales, conveyances, devices or bequests, or otherwise, from any person or persons whomsoever, capable of making the same; and to grant, bargain, sell, mortgage, or dispose of the same, for the use of the said corporation: *Provided, however,* That the said corporation shall not have power to dispose of, alien, sell, or in any way encumber the said real estate belonging to the said congregation, without first giving notice to the congregation, and state their object, and if a majority of the members present at the next meeting, after such notice has been given, shall consent thereto: *And provided further,* That the yearly value or income of said estate so held by said corporation, shall not at any time exceed two thousand five hundred dollars, and shall not be appropriated to any other than benevolent and religious purposes, except for the use of the congregation.
- SECTION 2.** The business of the corporation shall be conducted by seven trustees, four of whom shall be a quorum, who shall annually choose from among their number a president, a secretary, and a treasurer; the said treasurer shall receive and account for all moneys coming into his hands belonging to the corporation, and who shall give security for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in him, if required, and shall have his account annually settled by the trustees, to be laid before the congregation for their inspection, at the annual election of trustees; and may appoint such other officer or 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 officer, unless sanctioned by a majority of the corporation. All necessary expenditures incurred by the said board of trustees, or the consistory, expended or incurred in behalf of the business of the congregation, shall be paid by the treasurer, on the order of the president of either board. Members of the board of trustees may be re-elected as often as the congregation may see proper. The said trustees shall undertake no repairs, put up no new buildings, et cetera, the cost of which shall exceed the sum of one hundred dollars, without the concurrence of the
- Style.
- Powers.
- Proviso.
- Proviso.
- Number of justices.
- Officers.
- Duties.

congregation; the said trustees shall have power to submit to the congregation, for their approval, such by-laws as they from time to time may deem necessary and expedient for the government of the secular affairs of the congregation, and not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of this commonwealth; and to make, use, and have a common seal, and the same to break, alter, and renew at pleasure. By-laws.

SECTION 3. The first election under the altered and amended charter shall be held at the said church on the third Saturday of November, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and on the third Saturday of November in each succeeding year, of which at least ten days' notice shall be given by announcement from the pulpit, or in any other public manner. The said trustees to be elected as follows: the trustees now in office shall serve out the time for which they were elected, and the election of the remaining five shall be so arranged that there shall be two elected annually, and every third year there shall be three elected. If any vacancies should happen by death, or otherwise, the remaining trustees shall fill such vacancy by appointment, until the next annual election, when such vacancy shall be filled by an election, for the unexpired time such member whose seat is made vacant had to serve. No person shall be eligible as a trustee, unless he is a citizen of this commonwealth, and a member of the German Reformed church, by confirmation or admission, and who has been a regular member of this congregation at least six months previous to such election, and has contributed towards the support of the church: *Provided also*, That in case the congregation should at any time neglect to elect trustees at the time therein specified, the said corporation shall not be dissolved in consequence thereof, but the majority of the trustees remaining in office may order an election at any subsequent time, not exceeding one month, of which the said trustees shall give due public notice: *And provided further*, That in case the trustees should refuse or neglect to call meetings or hold elections, as is directed in this act, ten members entitled to vote for trustees, elders and deacons, may call such meeting, or hold an election, by giving at least ten days' notice of the time and place of such meeting or election. Election.
How elections shall be held.
Vacancies.
Eligibility.
Provido.
Provido.

SECTION 4. The said trustees, and their successors, shall have charge of all the property belonging to this congregation, manage and direct all its secular affairs, rent or lease the property of the congregation, and be responsible for the rents; keep the church and mill, and other buildings, in good repair, collect the outstanding moneys due the said congregation, discharge the debts, if any, and pay the minister's salary annually, or semi-annually, as may be agreed upon by the consistory, and sanctioned by the congregation; appoint an inspector and clerk for the holding of the elections, in conjunction with the inspector and clerk directed to be appointed by the consistory; all elections to be by ballot. Powers and duties of trustees.

SECTION 5. No person shall be entitled to vote at any election for minister, trustees, elders or deacons, who is not a regular member of the German Reformed church by confirmation, or admitted by the consistory of the said church, and has paid or contributed towards the support of the church, at least six months previous to such election, and is above the age of nineteen years, and shall have conducted himself according to the constitution and discipline of the German Reformed church of the United States of North America: *Provided, however*, That in case a regular member of the church, who through the neglect of the deacons shall not have been called upon for his contribution, shall not in consequence thereof be debarred from voting at any election, provided he has paid up all arrearages due by him, Qualifications.
Provido.

and has otherwise discharged his duties as a Christian towards the said church.

Duties of president.

SECTION 6. The president of the board of trustees shall preside at all meetings of the board, and have the casting vote in case the board is equally divided on any subject, call meetings of the board of trustees and of the congregation, on matters relative to the secular affairs of the congregation, whenever in his opinion it shall be necessary; and in case of the absence of the president at any meeting, a president *pro tem.* shall be appointed for that meeting. The secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the board at every meeting, and keep a record of the same. The existing vestry shall, as soon after the third Saturday in November, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, as the board of trustees shall be organized, deliver unto the said trustees a true and correct account of all the debts and credits of the said congregation, together with all such other matters relating to the secular affairs of the congregation. The said board of trustees shall then assume the said debts, maintain and defend all suits pending and undetermined when this charter shall go into operation; and all contracts and agreements which may have been entered into by the said vestry with any person or persons, and which may not have expired on the said third Saturday of November, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, shall be assumed and complied with by the said board of trustees, and their conditions enforced.

Secretary.

Trustees.

Consistory.

Officers.

Duties.

By-laws.
Proviso.

Duties.

Salary.

Admission of members.

SECTION 7. The consistory shall be composed of the minister, elders, and deacons; the minister for the time being, shall be the president of the consistory; a majority of the consistory to constitute a quorum; they shall elect from their number a secretary and a treasurer for the poor fund, that is the alms and other moneys collected by the consistory, and their appropriation regulated by by-laws, and account for all moneys paid to him by the deacons, and pay it out to the order of the elders and deacons; the consistory shall have the control and management of the spiritual concerns of the congregation, according to the constitution and discipline of the synod of the German Reformed church in the United States of North America; they shall also have power to propose and submit by-laws for the due order and regulation of the spiritual concerns of said congregation: *Provided,* Such by-laws are not contrary to the provisions of this charter, nor inconsistent with the constitution and discipline of the German Reformed church in the United States, nor the constitution and laws of this commonwealth; the said by-laws to be submitted for approval to the congregation at a meeting of said congregation to be called for that purpose, of which said meeting, the consistory shall give at least ten days' notice from the pulpit or otherwise; the majority of the members who are entitled to vote for pastor, elders and deacons, present at such meeting, may approve or reject such by-laws; the consistory shall also have power to elect the delegate to classes, according to the constitution of the synod of the German Reformed church of the United States of North America; they shall also keep a correct list or register of all the names of the members of the congregation, arranged in alphabetical order, open to the inspection of any regular member of the church.

SECTION 8. The said consistory shall also agree with the minister upon what salary he is to receive, and upon what conditions he will serve the said congregation, and lay the same before the congregation for their approval, at a meeting to be called for that purpose; all applications for membership shall be made to the president of the consistory, or any member thereof, and the said consistory or a majority of them, may admit such applicant in conformity of the constitution and disci-

pline of the aforesaid church; the consistory shall at present consist of the minister, six elders and six deacons, to be elected for three years, with the power to increase the number to twelve elders and twelve deacons, if the congregation see proper so to do; the present elders and deacons whose terms of office shall not have expired on the third Saturday of November, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, shall continue in office for the time they were elected, and the election of the remaining elders and deacons, shall be so regulated that hereafter one-third of the said consistory shall be annually elected, and so on in regular succession; the deacons shall at least once in three years, call upon every member whose name is found on the church record, and living within the precincts of the said church, and receive such contributions for the support of the church as said members may be willing to give; the consistory shall have power to call meetings of the congregation, or of their own board, in all spiritual matters, whenever they shall deem it necessary, by giving notice from the pulpit or otherwise, at least ten days previous to such meeting; members of the consistory may be re-elected as often as the congregation may see proper; the said consistory shall appoint an inspector and a clerk, who in conjunction with the inspector and clerk directed to be appointed by the board of trustees, shall superintend and hold the elections.

Consistory form-

Tenure.

Duties of deacon.

Inspector and clerk.

Qualification of minister.

Books.

Removal from offices.

Repeal.

SECTION 9. The minister or pastor of this congregation must be a member of the synod of the German Reformed church of the United States of North America, of good moral character and standing in the synod, who adheres strictly to the old and known landmarks of the German Reformed church; the Bible, the Old and New Testament, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Hymn Book of the German Reformed church, shall be the books used by said minister in the instruction of our youth.

SECTION 10. The majority of the members entitled to vote for trustees, elders and deacons, shall at all times be able to elect and remove the minister of the said congregation; and the consistory on ascertaining such fact, shall order an election for that purpose, of which due public notice shall be given by announcement from the pulpit or in any other public manner.

SECTION 11. That the chartered rights and privileges granted to this congregation by the supreme court of this commonwealth, enrolled the twenty-sixth day of September, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and five, be and the same are hereby repealed after the third Saturday of November, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, when this charter shall go into operation.

FINDLEY PATTERSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
DANIEL L. SHERWOOD,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The tenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

FRS. R. SHUNK.