

of the public landings and highways in the district of Southwark.

Passed September 20, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 12, etc. See the Act of Assembly passed March 6, 1790. Chapter 1490.

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CHAPTER CMXCII.

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AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK, IN THE COUNTY OF BUCKS.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the minister, elders and members of the Presbyterian church in the township of Warwick, in the county of Bucks, have prayed that their said church may be incorporated and by law enabled, as a body corporate and politic, to receive and hold such charitable donations and bequests as may from time to time be made to their society, and vested with such powers and privileges as are enjoyed by the other religious societies who are incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas, it is just and right and also agreeable to the true spirit of the constitution that the prayer of their said petition be granted:

[Section I.] (Section III, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That Richard Walker, Benjamin Snodgrass, William Scott, William Long, Nathan McKinstry, Gills Craven, William Walker, John Carr, Joseph Harb and their successors duly elected and appointed in such manner and form as hereinafter is directed be, and they are hereby made and constituted a corporation and body politic in law and in fact, to have continuance forever, by the name, style and title of "The Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Warwick Township, in the county of Bucks."

[Section II.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted

by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors, by the name, style and title aforesaid, shall forever hereafter be persons able and capable in law as well to take, receive and hold all and all manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises and other hereditaments which at any time or times heretofore have been granted, bargained, sold, enfeoffed, released, devised or otherwise conveyed to the said Presbyterian church in Warwick township and county aforesaid, or to the religious congregation worshipping therein, now under the pastoral charge and care of the Reverend Nathaniel Irvin, or to any other person or persons to their use or in trust for them, and the same lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments are hereby vested and established in the said corporation and their successors forever, according to their original use and intention. And the said corporation and their successors are hereby declared to be seized and possessed of such estate and estates therein as in and by the respective grants, bargains, sales, enfeoffments, releases, devises or other conveyances thereof is or are declared, limited or expressed; as also that the said corporation and their successors aforesaid, at all times hereafter shall be capable and able to purchase, have, receive, take, hold and enjoy in fee simple, or of any lesser estate or estates, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, alienation, enfeoffment, release, confirmation or devise of any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, capable and able to make the same; and, further, that the said corporation may take and receive any sum or sums of money and any manner or portion of goods and chattels that shall be given or bequeathed to them by any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate capable to make a bequest or gift thereof, such money, goods and chattels to be laid out by them in a purchase or purchases of lands, tenements, messuages, houses, rents, annuities or hereditaments to them and their successors forever; or moneys lent on interest or otherwise disposed of according to the intention of the donors.

[Section III.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted

by the authority aforesaid, That the rents, profits and interest of the said real and personal estate of the said church and corporation shall, by the said trustees and their successors from time to time, be applied for the maintenance and support of the pastor or pastors of the said church, for salaries to their clerk and sexton, in the maintenance and support of a school, and in repairing and maintaining their lot and house of public worship, burial ground, parsonage, house or houses, school house or houses and other tenements which now do or hereafter shall belong to the said church and corporation.

[Section IV.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if hereafter the building for public worship or any other tenement belonging to the said church and corporation shall be burnt, endamaged or otherwise rendered unfit for use, or if hereafter the said house of public worship shall appear to be too small to accommodate the congregation, whereby it shall become necessary to rebuild or repair the same, that then and in such case it may be lawful for the said corporation and their successors to make sale or otherwise dispose of any part or parcel of said real or personal estate other than the site of the house of public worship, burial ground or grounds, parsonage house or houses, school house or houses, for the purposes aforementioned and not otherwise.

[Section V.] (Section VII, P. L.) Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in the disposal and application of the public moneys of the said corporation, or in the making sale or disposition of any part or parcel of the real or personal estate of the said corporation for any of the purposes aforementioned, and public intimation of a meeting of the members of said church being given as hereinafter is directed, the consent and concurrence of the major part of the regular members of said church then met and qualified as hereinafter is directed, shall be had and obtained; and the votes hereinafter directed to be taken shall be by ballot, and also that the said trustees, in like manner qualified, shall be admitted to vote therein as members of said church.

[Section VI.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their suc-

cessors shall not, by deed, fine [or] recovery, or by any other ways or means, grant, alien or otherwise dispose of any manors, messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments in them or their successors vested, or hereafter to be vested, nor charge nor encumber the same to any person or persons whatsoever except as hereinbefore is excepted.

[Section VII.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees, and their successors, or the majority of any five of them met, from time to time, after public intimation given the preceding Lord's day, commonly called Sunday, from the desk or pulpit of the said church, immediately after divine service before the congregation is dismissed, or after regular notice in writing left at the house of each trustee and the particular business having been mentioned at least one meeting before, be authorized and empowered, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to make rules, and by-laws, and ordinances and to do everything needful for the good government and support of the secular affairs of the said church.

(Section X, P. L.) Provided always, That the said by-laws, rules and ordinances, or any of them, be not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth, and that all their proceedings be fairly and regularly entered into a church book, to be kept for that purpose; and also that the said trustees and their successors, by plurality of votes of any five or more of them met as aforesaid, after such intimation or notice as aforesaid, be authorized and empowered, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to elect and appoint from among themselves a president, and also to elect and appoint from among themselves or others, a treasurer and secretary, and the same president, treasurer and secretary, or any of them, at their pleasure to remove, change, alter or continue as to them, or a majority of any five of them or more so met as aforesaid, from time to time shall seem to be most for the benefit of the said church and corporation.

[Section VIII.] (Section XI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors shall have full power and authority to make, have

and use one common seal, with such device and inscription as they shall think proper, and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

[Section IX.] (Section XII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors by the name of the trustees of the Presbyterian church in Warwick township, in Bucks county aforesaid, shall be able and capable in law to sue or be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any court or courts, before any judge or judges, justice or justices, in all and all manner of suits, complaints, pleas, causes, matters and demands of whatsoever kind, nature or form they may be, and all and every matter and thing therein in as full and effectual a manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate within this commonwealth may or can do.

[Section X.] (Section XIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall always consist of nine members, called and known by the name of "The Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in the Township of Warwick, in the county of Bucks," and the said members shall at all times hereafter be chosen by ballot, by a majority of such members met together of the said church or congregation as shall have been enrolled in the aforesaid book as stated worshippers with the said church, for not less than the space of one year, and shall have paid one year's pew rent or other annual sum of money, not less than ten shillings, for the support of the pastor or pastors and other officers of the said church, their house of public worship and lots and tenements belonging to the said church and corporation, and towards the other necessary expenses of the said church, and shall not at any time of voting be more than one-half year behind or in arrears for the same.

(Section XIV, P. L.) Provided always, That the pastor or pastors of the said church, for the time being, shall be entitled to vote equally with any member of the said church or congregation.

(Section XV, P. L.) And provided also, That all and every person or persons, qualified as aforesaid to vote and elect, shall

and may be capable and able to be elected a trustee aforesaid, except in case of the said church having two pastors and one of them only to be eligible at the same time.

[Section XI.] (Section XVI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Richard Walker, Benjamin Snodgrass, William Scott, William Long, Nathan McKinstry, Giles Craven, William Walker, John Carr [and] Joseph Hart, the first and present trustees hereby incorporated, shall be and continue trustees aforesaid until they be removed in manner following: That is to say, one-third part in number of the trustees aforesaid, being the third part herein first named and appointed, shall cease and discontinue, and their appointment determine on the second Monday in the month of May, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, upon which day a new election shall be had and held of so many others in their stead and place, by a majority of the persons met and qualified agreeable to the purport, true intent and meaning of this act to vote and elect as aforesaid; and on the second Monday in the month of May, in the year following the second third part in number of the said trustees herein named shall, in like manner cease and discontinue, and their appointment determine, and a new election be had and held of so many in their place and stead, in like manner; and on the second Monday in May, in the year then next following, the last third part in number of the said trustees shall in like manner cease and discontinue, and their appointment determine, and a new election be had and held in like manner as hereinbefore is directed; and that in the same manner and by the like mode of rotation, one-third part in number of the said trustees shall cease, discontinue and their appointment determine, and a new election of said third part be had and held in manner aforesaid, and on the second Monday in the month of May in every year forever, so that no person or persons shall be or continue a trustee or trustees of said church for any longer time than three years together, without being re-elected.

(Section XVII, P. L.) Provided always, That the persons belonging to the said church who are in, and by this act author-

ized and empowered to elect, shall and may be at liberty to re-elect any one or more of the said trustees whose times shall have expired on the day of the annual election, whenever and so often as they shall think fit.

(Section XVIII, P. L.) Provided also, That whenever any vacancy happens by the death, refusal to serve, or removal of any one or more of the trustees aforesaid, pursuant to the directions of this act, an election shall be had of some fit person or persons, in his or their place and stead so dying, refusing or removing, as soon as conveniently can be done; and that the person or persons so elected shall be, remain and continue as a trustee or trustees aforesaid so long without a new election, as the person or persons in whose place and stead he or they shall have been so elected as aforesaid, would or might have remained and continued, and no longer, and that in all cases of a vacancy happening by the means in this act last mentioned, the remaining trustees shall be empowered to call a meeting of the electors for supplying the said vacancy, such meeting to be notified and published in like manner as hereinbefore is directed and appointed for notifying and publishing the meeting of the trustees.

[Section XII.] (Section XIX, P. L.) Provided always, and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the clear yearly value or income of the messuages, houses, lands, tenements, rents, annuities or other hereditaments and real estate of the said corporation shall not exceed the sum of one thousand pounds, lawful money of the state of Pennsylvania, to be taken and esteemed exclusive of the moneys arising from the letting of the pews and the contributions belonging to the said church, and also exclusive of the moneys arising from the opening the ground or burials, which said money shall be received by the said trustees and disposed of by them in the manner hereinbefore directed, pursuant to the votes of the members of the said church duly qualified to vote and elect as aforesaid.

Passed September 20, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 17, etc.