

CHAPTER CMXCIII.

AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH IN THE TOWNSHIPS OF NORTHAMPTON AND SOUTHAMPTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BUCKS.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, the minister, elders, deacons and members of the Dutch Protestant Reformed church, in the townships of Northampton and Southampton, in the county of Bucks, have prayed that some persons amongst them may be incorporated as trustees for the community, that they may receive and hold grants of lands and chattels, thereby to enable the petitioners to erect and repair public buildings for the worship of God, for school houses and for the maintenance of the ministry, and that the same trustees may plead and be impleaded in any suit touching the premises, and have perpetual success:

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 II, 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 the Reverend Matthew Light, minister; Henry Kroesen, Gilliam Cornell, Henry Wynkoop, elders; William Bennet, Aart Lefferts and Daniel Hogeland, deacons of the Dutch Reformed congregation above named, in the county aforesaid, and their successors duly elected and nominated in their place and stead, 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 Dutch Reformed Church in Northampton and Southampton, in the county of Bucks."

[Section II.] (Section III, 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 to purchase, take, hold and enjoy any messuages, houses, buildings, lands, rents, tenements, annuities or any other hereditaments, in fee simple and forever, or for term of life or lives or in any other manner, so as the same exceed not at any time in the clear yearly value or income the sum of one thousand pounds, lawful money of the state of Pennsylvania, over and above all charges and re-prizes; 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 politis or corporate capable to make a bequest or gift thereof; and also that the said corporation and their successors shall and may give, grant, demise or otherwise dispose of all or any of the messuages, houses, buildings, lands, rents, tenements, annuities or any other hereditaments as to them shall seem meet.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in the making sale or disposition of any part or parcel of the real estate of the said corporation, the consent and concurrence of the major part of the regular members, who shall have been enrolled as stated worshippers with the said church for not less than the space of one year, and who shall have paid an annual sum of money not less than seven shillings and six pence for the support of the pastor or pastors and other officers of the said church, their houses 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 who shall not at any time of voting be more than one-half year behind or in arrears for the same, shall be had and obtained.

[Section IV.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every such lands, tenements, hereditaments, money, goods and chattels, which at any time before or after the passing of this act have been or shall be devised, given or granted to the church above named, in the said county of Bucks, or to any person or persons in trust for them, shall be and remain and they are hereby declared to be vested in and shall remain in the peaceable and quiet pos-

session of the corporation, according to the true intent and meaning of such devise or devises, gift or gifts, grant or grants.

[Section V.] (Section VI, 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 Dutch Reformed Church in the townships of Northampton and Southampton, in the county of Bucks," shall be able and capable in law to sue and 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, causes, matters and demands of whatsoever kind, nature or form they may be, in as full and effectual a manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic and corporate in this commonwealth may or can do.

[Section VI.] (Section VII, 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 or devices and inscription, as they shall think proper, and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

[Section VII.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees, and their successors, or a majority of them, met from time to time be authorized and empowered, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to make rules, by-laws and ordinances and to do everything needful for the good government and support of the secular affairs of said church. Provided always, That the said rules, by-laws and ordinances, or any of them, be consonant to the usages and customs of said church, and not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth.

[Section VIII.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Reverend Matthew Light, minister; Henry Kroesen, Gilliam Cornell, Henry Wynkoop, elders; William Bennet, Aart Lefferts, Daniel Hogeland, deacons, the first and present trustees hereby incorporated, shall be and continue trustees of the Dutch Reformed church, in the county aforesaid, until others shall be duly elected and confirmed, according to the manner, custom and method now

in use in the said church, for electing the elders and deacons (the minister for the time being remaining a trustee), which persons so elected and confirmed as aforesaid shall have all the power and authorities of the above named trustees; and all and every such person or persons, so newly elected and confirmed as aforesaid, shall remain until other fit persons in like manner be elected and confirmed in their respective rooms and places.

[Section IX,] (Section X, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case of the death or removal of a minister of the said congregation, and until another minister shall be duly appointed and approved for the said congregation agreeable to former method and usage, they, the said elders and deacons, shall have the same power and authorities as are hereinbefore vested in the whole corporation.

[Section X.] (Section XI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees, and their successors be authorized and empowered, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to meet at such time or times, place or places as to them, or the major part of them, shall seem meet and convenient, and then and there, by plurality of votes to elect and appoint from among themselves a president, and also to elect and appoint a treasurer and secretary, which president so elected shall have the custody of the seal or seals of said corporation, and all books, charters, deeds and writings any way relating to the said corporation, and shall have power from time to time, and at all times hereafter, as occasion shall require, to call a meeting of the said trustees at such place as he shall think convenient, for the execution of all or any of the powers hereby given; and in case of sickness, removal or death of the president, all the powers hereby given to the president, shall remain in the senior elder, until the recovery of the president or until a new president shall be elected as aforesaid.

[Section XI.] (Section XII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every act and order of the major part of the said trustees, consented or agreed to at such meeting as aforesaid, shall be good, valid and effectual, to all intents and purposes, as if the whole number of the said trus-

tees had consented and agreed thereto; also, that all the proceedings of the said trustees, or a majority of them, shall, from time to time, be fairly entered in a book or books to be kept for the purpose by the president of the trustees for the time being, which book or books, together with the seal of the said corporation, and all charters, deeds and writings whatsoever, any way belonging to the said corporations shall be delivered over by the former president to the president of the said trustees newly elected, as such presidents shall hereafter successively from time to time be elected.

[Section XII.] (Section XIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every clause, sentence and article herein contained shall be, in all things, firm, valid, sufficient and effectual in law unto the said corporation and community and their successors forever, according to the true intent and meaning hereof; and that in all things it shall be construed, taken and expounded most benignly and for the greatest advantage and profit of the trustees of the said Dutch Reformed church of Northampton and Southampton, in the county of Bucks aforesaid, and their successors forever, notwithstanding any defect, default or imperfection may be found therein, or any other cause or thing whatsoever.

Passed September 20, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 21, etc.

CHAPTER CMXCIV.

AN ACT FOR PROCURING AN ESTIMATE OF THE DAMAGES, SUSTAINED BY THE INHABITANTS OF PENNSYLVANIA, FROM THE TROOPS AND ADHERENTS OF THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE PRESENT WAR.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas great damages of the most wanton nature have been committed by the armies of the King of Great Britain, or their adherents, within the territory of the United States of North America, unwarranted by the practice of civ-