

## CHAPTER MCXLI.

## AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FALLING SPRING, IN THE COUNTY OF FRANKLIN.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas sundry members of the Presbyterian church of Falling Spring, in the county of Franklin, have by their petition prayed that their congregation 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 other religious societies who are incorporated in this state:

(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 the 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 Patrick Vance, esquire, Benjamin Chambers, Senior, Matthew Wilson, esquire, Josiah Crawford, John Boggs, esquire, Edward Crawford, Junior, the Reverend James Lang, and James Moor, and their successors, duly elected and appointed in such manner as herein after is directed, be, and they are hereby made, constituted and declared to be 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 of Falling Spring, in the county of Franklin."

[Section II.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors 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 heretofore have been granted, bar-

gained, sold, enfeoffed, released, devised or otherwise conveyed to the aforesaid congregation of Falling Spring now under the pastoral care of the Reverend James Lang, or to any other person or persons to their use, or in trust for them, and the same lands, tenements, rents, annuities, 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 at all times hereafter shall be able and capable, to purchase, have, hold, receive and enjoy in fee simple, or of any other less estate or estates, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments, by the gift, bargain, sale, alienation, enfeoffment, release, confirmation or devise of any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable and able to make the same, and further, that the said corporation, and their successors, may take or receive any sum or sums of money, or any portion of goods or chattels that shall be given to them by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable of making such gift or bequest, such moneys, goods and chattels to be laid out and disposed of for the use and benefit of the aforesaid congregation agreeably 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 interests of the said real and personal estate of the aforesaid church and corporation shall by the said trustees and their successors from time to time be applied and laid out for the maintenance and support of the gospel ministry in said congregation, for repairing and maintaining their house of public worship, lots of land, and other buildings, burial ground, and such pious and charitable uses as shall be agreed on and determined by a majority of the congregation at large called together on due notice to give their free vote in such case.

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

by the authority aforesaid, That when and as often as it may become necessary to rebuild, enlarge or otherwise alter or repair the house of public worship, or any other building belonging to the aforesaid church and corporation, or to erect any new buildings, or to make any new purchases for the use of the said congregation, then and in such case it may be lawful for the aforesaid trustees and their successors to make sale of or otherwise dispose of such part or parcel of the said estate real or personal as a majority of the regular members of said congregation shall by their vote direct, the money arising from such sale or disposal to be laid out and applied agreeably to the vote of the aforesaid majority.

[Section V.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their successors shall not by deed or any otherwise, grant, alien, convey or otherwise dispose of any part or parcel of the estate real or personal in the said corporation vested, or to be hereafter vested, or charge or incumber the same to any person or persons whatsoever, except in the manner and for the purposes herein before mentioned.

(Section VIII, P. L.) Provided nevertheless, That no deed or other conveyance made by the said trustees or their successors bona fide and for valuable consideration for any part of the real estate of the said church and corporation in case the possession thereof pass immediately to the purchaser and continue in him, his heirs or assigns, shall be called in question, or invalidated for want of the consent of the majority of the regular members of the said church, unless the same be done within seven years [from] and after the sale and delivery of possession of such real estate to such purchaser or purchasers thereof.

[Section VI.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees or their successors or a majority of them may from time to time meet as often as they may think necessary for the benefit of the said corporation either on their own adjournments or on public notice from the pulpit the preceding Lords day immediately after divine service and before the congregation is dismissed, or on regular notice in writing left at the house of each trustee; and

the said trustees being so met 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 other members of said congregation a treasurer and secretary, and to remove, change or continue all or either of them at pleasure, as shall seem to be most for the benefit of said corporation.

(Section X, P. L.) Provided always, That the meeting or meetings of said corporation be not called without the concurrence of two or more trustees, or of three or more respectable members of said congregation with the president, or without the particular business then to be done and reasons of the meeting being specified in the notification.

[Section VII.] (Section XI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees or a majority of them met as is herein directed before shall 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 government and support of the secular affairs of said congregation.

(Section XII, P. L.) Provided always, That the said by-laws and ordinances or any of them be not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth, and that all their laws and proceedings be fairly and regularly entered into a book to be kept for that purpose.

[Section VIII.] (Section XIII, 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 XIV.) 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 Congregation of Falling Spring in the county of Franklin shall be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court or before any judge or justice in all and all manner of suits, complaints, pleas, causes, matters and demands,

of whatever kind, nature or form they may be; and all and every matter or thing therein to do, 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 XV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall always consist of eight members called and known by the name of the trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of Falling Spring, and the said members shall at all times hereafter be chosen by ballot by a majority of such members met together of the said congregation as shall have been enrolled as stated worshippers with, and yearly contributors to the support of the said congregation for at least the space of one year.

(Section XVI, P. L.) Provided always, That the pastor or minister of said congregation for the time being shall be entitled to vote equally with any members of said congregation, and also that all and every person or persons qualified to vote and elect as aforesaid shall and may be also capable of being voted and elected a trustee as aforesaid, provided he or they be not more than two years in arrear for pew-rent due the said church and congregation.

[Section XI.] (Section XVII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Patrick Vance, esquire, Benjamin Chambers, Senior, Matthew Wilson, esquire, Josiah Crawford, John Boggs, esquire, Edward Crawford, Junior, the Reverend James Lang and James Moor, the first and present trustees hereby incorporated shall be and continue trustees until removed in manner following, viz: one-fourth part in the number of said trustees, being the fourth part herein first named shall cease and discontinue and their appointment determine on the first Monday of April which will be in the year of our Lord-seventeen hundred and eighty-six; and the second fourth part herein mentioned, shall cease and discontinue, and their appointment determine on the first Monday in April which will be in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and in like manner the appointment of the third fourth part herein mentioned shall cease and determine on the first Monday in April which shall be in the year seven-

teen hundred and eighty-eight, and the appointment of the last fourth part shall cease and determine on the first Monday in April which shall be in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, on which days in each of the afore mentioned years respectively new elections shall be held of other trustees instead of those whose appointments shall have ceased and terminated, which manner of discontinuance, detemination, new appointment or election, shall be continued on the first Monday of April in every year hereafter forever, so that no person shall be or continue a trustee longer than four years together without being re-elected, which may be done whenever and as often as the members of said congregation qualified to vote as aforesaid described shall think fit.

(Section XVIII, P. L.) Provided always, That whenever any vacancy shall happen by the death, refusal to serve or other removal of any one or more of the said trustees, or in case the members of the said church shall neglect to meet on the first Monday of April in any year, an election shall be held as soon as conveniently can be done and some fit person or persons chosen and appointed as before directed to supply such vacancy, and that the remaining trustees have power to call a meeting of the electors of said congregation for that purpose.

[Section XII.] (Section XIX, P. L.) Provided always and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the clear yearly value interest or income of the lands, tenements, rents, annuities, or other hereditaments and real estate of the said corporation shall not exceed the sum of three hundred and fifty pounds of gold or silver money, at the current value thereof in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, exclusive of pew rents and other free contributions belonging to the aforesaid congregation, which said money shall be received by the said trustees and disposed of by them for the purposes and in the manner herein before described and directed.

Passed March 25, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 474, etc.