

phreys for the sum of three hundred pounds for the purpose of enabling him to carry on more extensively the manufacturing bar into steel within this state.

Section II. (Section III. P.L.) Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That previous to his obtaining the said order upon the state treasurer he shall give sufficient security to his excellency the president of the council for the time being for the sum of six hundred pounds for the faithful repayment of the aforesaid three hundred pounds without interest at the expiration of five years and that the money received by him as aforesaid shall be applied to the purposes for which it is lent.

Passed April 8, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 109, etc.

CHAPTER MCOXXIX.

AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE GERMAN REFORMED CONGREGATION IN THE BOROUGH OF READING IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS.

(Section I. P.L.) Whereas divers members of the German Reformed congregation in the borough of Reading in the county of Berks have at a very considerable expense erected one church and one school house in the said borough, have prayed that some persons amongst them may be incorporated 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 as trustees, elders and deacons may plead and be impleaded in any suit touching the premises, and have perpetual succession:

And whereas it is just and right and also agreeable to the 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 Daniel Hiester, Daniel Levan and Joseph Hiester, trustees, John Hartman, Krafft Heiner, Jacob Yeager, George Riehm, Daniel Zacharias and Philip Miller, elders, Peter Nagle, John Snell, George Yeager, Daniel Rose, Conrad Feasig and Peter Feather, the younger, the deacons of the German 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, Elders and Deacons of the German Reformed Congregation in the borough of Reading in the county of Berks."

[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, of for term of life or lives or in any other manner so as the same exceed not at any time the clear yearly value or income [of] the sum of one thousand pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania to be taken and esteemed exclusive of the moneys arising from the letting of the pews and the contributions belonging to said church and also exclusive of the moneys arising from the opening of the ground or burials and further that the said corporation may take and receive any sum or sums of money or any manner or portion of goods and chattels that shall be given or bequeathed to them by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate capable to make a bequest or gift thereof and also that the said corporations and their successors shall and may give, grant, demise or otherwise dispose of all or any of the messuages, houses, buildings, lands, rents, tenements or any other hereditaments, as to them shall seem meet (excepting the site of the house of public worship, burial ground or grounds, parsonage house or houses, school house or houses) for repairing or rebuilding the house of public worship, parsonage or school house aforementioned and not otherwise.

[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 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, moneys, 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 town (now borough) of Reading 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 possession 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, Elders and Deacons of the German Reformed Congregation in the borough of Reading in the county of Berks," shall be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in court or courts, before any judge or judges, justice or justices, in all and all manner of suits, complaints, causes, matters and demands of whatever kind, nature and 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 devise or devises and inscription as they shall think proper and the same to break, alter or renew at their pleasure.

[Section VII.] (Section VIII. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees, elders and deacons and their successors or a majority of them with the

concurrence of their pastor or minister for the time being be authorized and empowered from time to time 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 corporation shall consist of sixteen members, namely, the pastor or minister for the time being, three trustees, six elders and six deacons, called and known by the name of "The Trustees, Elders and Deacons of the German Reformed Congregation in the Borough of Reading in the county of Berks," and who shall be chosen by a majority of such members of said congregation as have a right to vote therein according to the enrollment as stated worshippers as above mentioned.

[Section IX.] (Section X. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Daniel Hiester, Daniel Levan and Joseph Hiester the first and present trustees, John Hartman, Krafft Heiner, Jacob Yeager, George Riehm, Daniel Zacharias and Philip Miller, the present elders, Peter Nagle, John Snell, George Yeager, Daniel Rose, Conrad Feasig and Peter Feather, the younger, the present deacons hereby incorporated, shall be and continue as aforesaid until they be removed in manner following, that is to say one third part in number of each of them shall cease and discontinue and their appointment determine on the first Monday in the month of January which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, upon which day a new election shall be had and held for so many others in their stead and place by a majority met and qualified agreeable to the purport, true intent and meaning of this act to vote and elect as aforesaid. And on the first Monday in the month of January in the year following the second third part in number of each of the said trustees, elders and deacons herein named shall in like manner cease and discontinue and their appointment determine and a new election to be had and held of so

many others in their places and stead, and in like manner on the first Monday in the month of January in the year then next following the last third part of each of the said trustees, elders and deacons shall in like manner cease and discontinue and their appointment determine and a new election be had and held in like manner, and by the like mode of rotation one third part in number of said trustees, elders and deacons shall cease, discontinue and their appointment determine and a new election of said appointment be had and held in manner aforesaid on the first Monday in the month of January in each and every year forever so that no persons or persons shall be or continue a trustee, elder or deacon of said church for any longer time than three years together if not re-elected.

[Section X.] (Section XI. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case of death or removal of the pastor or minister of said congregation and until another pastor or minister shall be duly appointed and approved for said congregation agreeable to the former method and usage, they, the said trustees, elders and deacons, shall have the same powers and authorities as are herein vested in the whole corporation, or in case of death, refusal or removal of one or more of the trustees, elders or deacons, the said corporation shall at any time, whenever the same shall happen, have power to elect, appoint and choose, and other trustee or trustees, elder or elders, deacon or deacons, as the case may be, and the person or persons so nominated and appointed to continue in said office for or during the time the person or persons, he or they were elected for, should or could have remained or continued and no longer.

[Section XI.] (Section XII. P.L.) Provided always, That the persons belonging to the said church who are in and by this act authorized and empowered to elect shall and may be at liberty to re-elect one or more of the said trustees, elders and deacons whose time shall have expired on the day of the annual election whenever and so often as they shall think fit.