

ment of two hundred and seventy pounds nine shillings specie of which he was robbed, the several acts of assembly to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed March 5, 1787. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 172, etc.

CHAPTER MCCLXVIII.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE CONGREGATION OF SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS RESIDING WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST NANTMEL AND PLACES ADJACENT IN THE COUNTY OF CHESTER.

(Section I. P.L.) Whereas the congregation of the Seventh Day Baptists in the county of Chester 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.

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 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 ad by the authority of the same, That David Thomas, Daniel Griffith, Esquire, William Griffith, Senior, Levi Griffith, John McCracking, James Roberts, Samuel Thomas, Hazael Thomas and Jeremiah Jarman, and their successors duly elected and appointed in such manner as herein after 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 Congregation of the Seventh Day Baptists within the Township of East Nantmel and places adjacent in the County of Chester."

[Section II.] (Section III. 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 manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises and other hereditaments which at any time heretofore have been granted, bargained, sold, enfeoffed, released, devised, or otherwise conveyed to the aforesaid congregation, 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, grant, 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 money, goods and chattels to be laid out and disposed of for the use and benefit of the aforesaid congregation agreeable to the intention of the donors.

[Section III.] (Section IV. 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 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 V. 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 buildings belonging to the aforesaid corporation or to erect any new buildings or to make new purchases for the use of the said congregation, then and in such cases 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 agreeable to the vote of the aforesaid majority.

[Section V.] (Section VI. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their successors shall not by deed or 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 encumber the same to any person or persons whatsoever except in the manner and for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned.

(Section VII. P.L.) Provided nevertheless, That no deed or other conveyance if made by the said trustees or their successors bona fide for valuable considerations, for any part of the real estate of the said 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 congregation 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 VIII. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees or their successors or a majority of them 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 Sabbath 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 IX. 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 X. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees or a majority of them met as is hereinbefore directed 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. 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 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 Congregation of the Seventh Day Baptists within the Township of East Nantmel and places adjacent in the County of Chester," 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 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 Seventh Day Baptists residing within the Township of East Nantmel and places adjacent in the County of Chester," 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 XIV. P.L.) Provided always, That the pastor or minister of said congregation for the time being shall be entitled to vote equally with any member 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 as a trustee as aforesaid, provided he or they be not more than two years in arrears for pew rent due to said congregation.

[Section XI.] (Section XV. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said David Thomas, Daniel Griffith, Esquire, William Griffith, senior, Levi Griffith, John McCracking, James Roberts, Samuel Thomas, Hazael Thomas and Jeremiah Jarman, the first and present trustees hereby incorporated, shall be and continue trustees until removed in manner following, viz. one third part in the number of said trustees, being the third part herein first named, shall cease and discontinue and their appointment determine on the last Monday in May which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight and the second third part herein mentioned shall cease and discontinue and their ap-

pointment determine on the last Monday in May which will be in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine and in like manner the appointment of the last third part herein mentioned shall cease and determine on the last Monday in May which shall be in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety, on which days in each of the aforementioned years respectively new elections shall be held of other trustees instead of those whose appointment shall have ceased and terminated, which manner of discontinuance, determination, new appointment or election, shall be had on the last Monday in May in every year hereafter forever, so that no person shall be or continue a trustee longer than three 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 shall think fit.

(Section XVI. 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 congregation shall neglect to meet on the last Monday in May 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 XVII. 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 five hundred 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 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 5, 1787. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 173, etc.