

might have continued and remained 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 is hereinbefore is directed and appointed for notifying and publishing the meeting of the congregation.

[Section IX.] (Section XI. P. L.) Provided also 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 five hundred pounds lawful money of the state of Pennsylvania to be taken and esteemed exclusive of the moneys arising from the contributions belonging to the said church and also exclusive of the moneys arising from the opening of the ground for burials, which said money shall be received by the trustees and disposed of by them in the manner hereinbefore directed pursuant to the votes of the members of the said church or congregation duly qualified to vote and elect as aforesaid.

Passed March 28, 1787. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 213, etc.

CHAPTER MCCLXXXVIII

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION IN TINICUM TOWNSHIP IN THE COUNTY OF BUCKS.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas the Presbyterian congregation of Tincicum township in the county of Bucks have prayed that their said congregation may be incorporated and by law enabled as a body corporate and politic to receive and hold such grants of land, charitable donations and bequests as have been or that hereafter may be made to their society and vested with such powers and privileges as are enjoyed by other religious societies who are incorporated within this state:

And whereas this house is disposed to exercise the powers vested in the legislature of this commonwealth for the encouragement of pious and charitable purposes agreeable to the true spirit of the constitution:

[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 Thomas Long, Esquire, John Barclay, Esquire, John Thompson, Robert Stewart, Junior and John Bailey and their successors duly elected and appointed in such manner 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 Congregation of Tincum Township in the County of Bucks."

[Section II.] (Section II. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors by the name, title and style 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 Congregation of Tincum township and county aforesaid or to the religious society or congregation worshipping therein now under the pastoral care of the Reverend James Grier 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 the original use and intent for which such devises, gifts and grants were respectively made. 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. And also that the said corporation and their successors aforesaid at all times hereafter shall be capa-

ble and able to purchase, have, receive, take, hold and enjoy in fee simple or of 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 may take and receive any sum or sums of money and any portion of goods and chattels that have been or hereafter shall be given or bequeathed to them by any person or persons, bodies corporate and politic able and capable to make a bequest or gift thereof, such money, 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 donor.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no misnomer of the said corporation and their successors shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise or bequest to or from the said corporation, provided the intent of the party or parties shall sufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, grant, will or other writing whereby any estate or interest was intended to pass to or from the said corporation.

Section IV. (Section V. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the rents, profits and interests of the [the real and personal estate of the] aforesaid corporation and congregation shall by the said trustees and their successors from time to time be applied and laid out by them for the maintenance and support of a pastor or supplies in said church and congregation for repairing their house of public worship, lot or lots of land, burial ground or burial grounds and such other house or houses as now do and hereafter shall belong to the said church and corporation and such other pious and charitable uses as shall be thought proper by a majority of the congregation at large called together or as many of the regular members thereof as shall attend on due notice to give their vote in such case.

[Section V.] (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 the

house of public worship belonging to the said congregation and corporation, or to erect any new building or to make any purchase 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 such part or parcel of the real or personal estate of the said corporation other than the site of the house of public worship, burial ground or burial grounds, as a majority of the trustees and of the regular members of said congregation shall by their votes direct and the money arising from such sale to be laid out and applied agreeably to a vote of the majority of the members met aforesaid.

Section VI. (Section VII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their successors shall not by any 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 without the consent and approbation of a majority of the members of the said congregation first had and obtained.

[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 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 and before the congregation are dismissed or offer regular notice in writing left at the house of each trustee and the particular business inserted therein, at least one week before the time appointed, be authorized and empowered and they are hereby authorized and empowered to make by laws and ordinances and to do everything needful for the good government and support of the secular affairs of the said church.

(Section IX. 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 proceedings be fairly and regularly entered into a church book to be kept for that purpose.

[Section VIII.] (Section X. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their successors by a majority of votes of any three or more of them when met as aforesaid after such intimation or notice as aforesaid, be 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, secretary and treasurer or any of them at their pleasure to remove, change, alter or continue as to them or a majority of any three or more of them so met as aforesaid from time to time shall seem to be most for the benefit of said church and corporation.

[Section IX.] (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 devise and inscription as they shall think proper and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

[Section X.] (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 Congregation of Tincum Township in the County of Bucks," aforesaid, 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, pleas, causes, matters and demands of whatsoever nature, kind or form they may be and all and every matter and thing therein to do in as full and effectual a manner as any other person or persons, body politic or corporate within this commonwealth may or can do.

[Section XI.] (Section XIII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall always consist of five members called and known by the name of "The Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of Tincum township in the county of Bucks;" and the said trustees shall at all times hereafter be chosen by ballot by a majority of such members met together of the said congregation as are stated worshippers of the said church for not less than the space of

one year and have paid one year's pew rent or other sum of money not less than five shillings yearly toward the support of the pastor or other officers of the said church, house of public worship, burial ground [or burial grounds] or for any other expenses of said church and shall not at any time of voting be more than one-half a year in arrears for the same.

[Section XII.] (Section XIV. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Thomas Long, Esquire, John Barclay, Esquire, John Thompson, Robert Stewart, Junior, and John Bailey, the first and present trustees hereby incorporated shall be and continue trustees aforesaid until they be removed in manner following, that is to say, that all and every of the trustees herein first named and appointed shall cease and discontinue and their appointment determine on the first Monday in May which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, 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, agreeably to the true intent and meaning of this act to vote and elect as aforesaid yearly and every year forever.

(Section XV. P. L.) Provided always, That the same trustees or either of them may be re-elected at such elections and if by accident an election shall not be held on said day shall continue trustees until an election shall be made at some future day by them to be appointed or by public notice given from the desk or pulpit as aforesaid, so that the same be within six weeks thereafter. Provided also, That the pastor of the said church for the time being shall be entitled to vote equally with any member of the said church or congregation. 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 trustees aforesaid.

[Section XIII.] (Section XVI. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever any vacancy shall happen by 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 held of some fit person or persons in his or their stead so dying, refusing or removing as soon as

conveniently can be done, and 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 continued and remained 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 XIV.] (Section XVII. P. L.) And be it further 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 five hundred pounds lawful money of the state of Pennsylvania to be taken and esteemed exclusive of the money arising from the annual stated contributions belonging to the said church and also exclusive of the moneys arising from the opening of the grounds for burials, which said money shall be received by the trustees and disposed of by them in the manner hereinbefore directed.

[Section XV.] (Section XVIII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the president when elected as aforesaid shall have the custody of the seal of the said corporation and all books, charters, deeds and writings any way relating to the same, which book or books together with the seal of the said corporation and all charters, deeds and writings whatsoever any belonging to the corporation shall be delivered over by the former president to the president of said trustees newly elected as such president shall hereafter successively from time to time be elected.