

Saturday in November next, at which time a new election for directors and a treasurer is to take place agreeably to the directions of this act.

Passed March 28, 1787. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 229, etc.

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CHAPTER MCCXCII.

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AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE BAPTIST CHURCH AND CONGREGATION IN LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP IN THE COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas the Baptist church and congregation in Lower Dublin township in the county of Philadelphia have prayed that said church and congregation may be incorporated and by law enabled as a body politic and corporate to receive and hold such charitable donations and bequests as have been or hereafter may be made to their said society and vested with such powers and privileges as are enjoyed by other religious societies which are incorporated in this state:

And whereas this house is disposed to exercise the power vested in the legislature of the commonwealth for the encouragement of pious and charitable purposes.

[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 Doctor Samuel Jones, the present minister of said church and congregation, Thomas Webster, Benjamin Dungan, Joseph Miles and John Holmes, members of said church, Enoch Edwards, Esquire, Richard Whitton, Joshua Jones and Stephen Watts, members of the congregation, and their successors duly elected and appointed in such manner as hereinafter is directed be and they are hereby made and declared and constituted a corporation and body politic and corporate in law and in fact to have continuance forever by the name, style and title of "The Trustees of

the Baptist Church and Congregation in Lower Dublin Township in the County of Philadelphia.”

[Section II.] (Section III. P. L.) And be it 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 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 Baptist church and congregation in the township and county aforesaid now under the pastoral charge and care of the Reverend Doctor Samuel Jones, or to any other person or persons to their use in trust for them, and the same lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments are hereby vested 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 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 aforesaid at all times hereafter shall be capable and able to purchase, have, receive, take, hold and enjoy in fee simple or of any 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 corporate and politic capable and able to make the same, and further that the said corporation may take and receive any sums of money and any manner or portion of goods or chattels that have or shall be given unto them by any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate capable to make a bequest or gift thereof, any misnomer of the corporation in any gift or bequest of any estate, real or personal notwithstanding, and the said corporation shall lay out such moneys, goods and chattels in a purchase or purchases of lands, tenements, messuages, houses, rents, annuities or hereditaments to them and their successors forever or

shall lend the money on interest or otherwise dispose thereof according to the true intention of the donors.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the rents, issues, profits and interests of the real and personal estate of the said church and congregation shall by the said trustees and their successors from time to time be applied for the maintenance of the Gospel ministry in the said church and in repairing the house of public worship, burial ground, parsonage house or in purchasing, repairing or building other houses or estates which now do or hereafter shall belong to the said church and congregation.

[Section IV.] (Section V. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their successors shall not by deed or by any other ways or means grant, alien or otherwise dispose of any messuages, lands, tenements, 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 the majority of those hereinafter mentioned as persons qualified to vote for succeeding trustees.

[Section V.] (Section VI. 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 fit and proper and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

[Section VI.] (Section VII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their successors shall have a right to meet from time to time at their own adjournments or on regular notice in writing left at the house of each trustee by the secretary of the corporation and the particular business inserted therein at least one week before the time of meeting which notice the said secretary is authorized to give by order of the president or senior deacon of the church for the time being and any two of the other trustees. And the said trustees and their successors at their regular meetings aforesaid shall have power and authority to choose from

among themselves or others by a majority of votes a treasurer and secretary, and the said treasurer and secretary or any of them to remove, change, alter and continue as to them or a majority of them shall seem meet, as they shall also at these their regular meetings have full power and authority 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. Provided always, That the said by-laws, rules 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 in a book to be kept for that purpose.

[Section VII.] (Section VIII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors by the name of "Trustees of the Baptist Church and Congregation in Lower Dublin Township in the County of Philadelphia," 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 and corporate within this commonwealth may or can do.

[Section VIII.] (Section IX. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the minister of the church for the time being shall always be one of the trustees and the president of the board in virtue of his office and also the senior deacon of the church for the time being shall be one of the trustees to act in case the church should at any time be destitute of a minister or in the minister's absence upon whatsoever occasion but not otherwise the corporation at such times choosing a president from among themselves pro tempore. And besides the minister and deacon of the church one only of whom is empowered to act at a time as aforesaid there shall always be eight other trustees to make up the number nine of acting trustees as at present, viz., four who shall be members of the church and four of the congregation that is to say of such as shall be qualified to vote and such eight trustees shall at all

times hereafter be chosen by ballot by a majority of such members met of the said church and congregation as shall be stated worshippers together, and have paid the sum of not less than seven shillings and six pence yearly towards the support of the said church and shall not at any time of voting be more than one year in arrears for the same.

[Section IX.] (Section X. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the first and present trustees hereby incorporated shall be and continue trustees as aforesaid until the first Monday in May, 1790, at which time their appointment except the minister shall cease and discontinue, and an election of eight trustees shall be had and held on said day, that is to say an election of four trustees from among the members of the church and four among the members of the congregation qualified to vote as aforesaid which eight trustees shall be chosen and elected by a majority of votes of those met and qualified as aforesaid and so on new elections shall be had of new trustees on the first Monday in May in every third year after every election forever. Provided always, That the [same] trustees or any of them may be re-elected at such elections and if by any accident it should happen that an election shall not be held on said day they shall continue trustees until an election shall be held on some future day by them to be appointed so that the same be within six months thereafter and public notice thereof be by them given to the congregation on some preceding Sunday (not more than three weeks before the time of meeting) after divine service and before the congregation is dismissed. Provided always, if within that time the said trustees should neglect to make such appointment aforesaid it shall and may be lawful for the church and congregation at any time after to meet and elect such trustees aforesaid on notice being given in like manner by any member of said church or congregation, but the authority and power hereby given to any set of trustees (appointed as aforesaid) shall not cease until a new election has actually taken place. Provided always, That if it should ever be necessary to hold such election in the manner herein described by means of there being no election held at the regular

and stated time provided in this act, then and in that case such trustees so elected shall be and continue until the first Monday in May in the third year after such new time of election, at which time they shall cease and discontinue and so on as aforesaid forever.

(Section XI. P. L.) And when any vacancy of any one or more of the trustees aforesaid shall happen by the death, refusal to serve, removal or by any person becoming incapacitated to serve by an alteration in his situation with respect to his membership or any other circumstances which shall render him ineligible agreeable to the intent and spirit of this act or otherwise, an election by order of the remaining trustees shall be held when and where they judge convenient of some fit person or persons in his or their stead, either of the members of the church or congregation as the vacancy may be on public notice being given by the said trustees in manner aforesaid, and the person or persons so elected shall be and continue a trustee or trustees so long as the person or persons in whose stead he or they shall have been so elected would or might have continued and no longer.

Section X. (Section XII. P. L.) Provided always and it is hereby enacted, 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, gold or silver money at the present current value in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, exclusive the moneys arising from the letting of the pews or for opening the ground for burials in their graveyards or those arising from voluntary, stated or occasional contributions which said money shall be received by the trustees and disposed of as hereinbefore directed.

Section XI. (Section XIII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That where any doubt shall happen to arise touching this act or any part thereof, the same shall in all cases and in all courts of law and equity be construed and taken most favorably and beneficially for the said corporation.