

accompanied by proper vouchers, to the persons who shall be appointed to settle their said accounts as county commissioners, who shall in like manner, examine, settle and adjust the same; and it shall be the duty of the persons so appointed to settle the said accounts to lay a copy of the same, annually, before the court of quarter sessions of the peace of the county aforesaid; and whenever it shall appear to the satisfaction of the said court, that a sum has been raised, which, in addition to the means heretofore provided, is sufficient to defray the expenses of completing the said bridge, and paying the charges which shall have been incurred in the collection of toll before the aforesaid period, the said court shall make an order declaring the said bridge to be free, and no toll whatever shall thereafter be received for passing over the said bridge.

Passed March 28, 1799. Recorded L. B. No. 6, p. 336, etc.

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## CHAPTER MMXLII.

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### AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE TRUSTEES OF THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS, CONSTITUTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Whereas the ministers and elders forming the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States of America, consisting of citizens of the state of Pennsylvania, and of others of the United States of America aforesaid, have, by their petition, represented that by donations, bequests or otherwise, of charitably disposed persons, they are possessed of moneys for benevolent and pious purposes, and the said ministers and elders have reason to expect farther contributions for similar uses, but from the scattered situation of the said ministers and elders, and other causes, the said ministers and elders find it extremely difficult to manage the said funds, in the way best calculated to answer the intention of the donors. Therefore:

[Section I.] (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That John Rogers, Alexander M'Whorter, Samuel Stanhope Smith, Ashbel Green, William M. Tenant, Patrick Allison, Nathan Irwin, Joseph Clark, Andrew Hunter, Jared Ingersoll, Robert Ralston, Jonathan B. Smith, Andrew Bayard, Elias Boudinot, John Nelson, Ebenezer Hazard, David Jackson and Robert Smith, merchant, and their successors, duly elected and appointed in manner as is hereinafter directed, be, and they are hereby, made, 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 "Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America," and 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 ministers and elders of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States, or 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 and other conveyances thereof, is or are declared, limited and expressed; also, that the said corporation, and their successors, at all times hereafter, shall be capable and able to purchase, have, receive, take, hold and enjoy, in fee simple, or of lesser estate, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises and other hereditaments, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, alienation, enfeoffment, release, confirmation or devise of any person or persons,

bodies politic and corporate, capable and able to make the same; and further, that the said ministers and elders, under the corporate name aforesaid, and their successors, may take and receive any sum or sums of money, and any portion of goods and chattels, that have been given to the said ministers and elders, or that hereafter shall be given, sold, leased or bequeathed to the said corporation, by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, that is able or capable to make a gift, sale, bequest or other disposal of the same; such money, goods or chattels to be laid out and disposed of, for the use and benefit of the aforesaid corporation, agreeably to the intention of the donors, and according to the objects, articles and conditions of this act.

[Section II.] (Section II, 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, will, grant or other writing, whereby any estate or interest was intended to pass to or from the said corporation.

[Section III.] (Section III, 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 IV.] (Section IV, 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 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, matters and demands, of whatsoever nature, kind and form they may be, and all and every matter and thing to do, in as full and effectual a manner as any other person, bodies politic or corporate, within this commonwealth, may or can do.

[Section V.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporations, and their successors, shall be, and hereby are, authorized and empowered to make, ordain and establish by-laws and ordinances, and do everything incident and needful for the support and due government of the said corporation, and managing the funds and revenues thereof; Provided the said by-laws be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, to the constitution and laws of this commonwealth, or to this act.

[Section VI.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall not at any time consist of more than eighteen persons, whereof the said general assembly may, at their direction, as often as they shall hold their sessions in the state of Pennsylvania, change one-third, in such manner as to the said general assembly shall seem proper, and the corporation aforesaid shall have power and authority to manage and dispose of all moneys, goods, chattels, lands, tenements and hereditaments, and other estate whatsoever committed to their care and trust by the said general assembly; but in cases where special instructions for the management and disposal thereof shall be given by the said general assembly in writing, under the hand of their clerk, it shall be the duty of the said corporation to act according to such instructions, Provided the said instructions shall not be repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, or of the constitution and laws of this commonwealth, or the provisions and restrictions in this act contained.

[Section VII.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That six members of this corporation, whereof the president, or in his absence, the vice-president, to be one, shall be a sufficient number to transact the business thereof, and to make by-laws, rules and regulations, provided that previous to any meeting of the board or corporation for such purposes, not appointed by adjournment, ten days' notice shall be previously given thereof, in at least one of the newspapers printed in the city of Philadelphia. And the said corporation shall and may, as often as they shall see proper, and according to the rules by them to be prescribed, choose, out of their numbers, a president and vice-president, and shall

have authority to appoint a treasurer, and such other officers and servants as shall by them, the said corporation, be deemed necessary, to which officers the said corporation may assign such a compensation, for their services and such duties to be performed by them, to continue in office for such time, and to be succeeded by others in such way and manner, as the said corporation shall direct.

[Section VIII.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all questions before the said corporation shall be decided by a plurality of votes, whereof each member present shall have one, except the president, or vice-president when acting as president, who shall have only the casting voice and vote, in case of an equality in the votes of the other members.

[Section IX.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall keep regular and fair entries of their proceedings, and just account of their receipts and disbursements, in a book or books to be provided for that purpose; and their treasurer shall, once in every year, exhibit to the general assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, an exact state of the accounts of the corporation.

[Section X.] (Section X, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation may take, receive, purchase, possess and enjoy messuages, houses, lands, tenements, rents, annuities and other hereditaments, real and personal estate, of any amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars yearly value, but the said limitations not to be considered as including the annual collections and voluntary contributions made in the churches, under the care of the said general assembly.