

congregation of Pequea in the county of Lancaster,"¹ enacted on the fifth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, mutatis mutandis, shall be, and the same are hereby extended and applied to the said congregation of Brandywine and to the nine trustees hereinbefore mentioned and their successors.

[Section IV.] (Section V. P. L.) Provided nevertheless, That no sale or alienation of the real estate of the said corporation made by the said trustees or their successors bona fide, and for valuable consideration in case the possession thereof pass immediately to the purchaser thereof and continue in him or his assigns, shall be impeached or called in question for want of the consent of the majority of the regular members of the said society and congregation given as required by the act aforesaid, unless the same be done within seven years from and after the sale and delivery of possession to the said purchaser.

Passed September 1, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 152, etc.

CHAPTER MCCXXXIV.

AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE TOWNSHIP OF NEW BRITAIN AND COUNTY OF BUCKS.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas the minister, deacons and members of the Baptist church in the township of New Britain, in the county of Bucks have prayed that their said church may be incorporated and by law enabled as a body corporate and politic to receive and hold such charitable donations and bequests as have been or may from time to time be made to their society, and vested with such powers and privileges as are enjoyed by the religious societies who are incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania.

¹ Chapter 1124.

And whereas it is just and right and also agreeable to the true 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 Joshua Jones, minister, Edward Matthew, Thomas Jones, Morris Morris and Benjamin Matthew and their successors, duly elected and appointed in such manner and form as hereafter 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 Baptist Church in New Britain Township in the County of Bucks."

[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 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 in New Britain township and county aforesaid, or to the religious congregation worshipping therein, now under the pastoral charge and care of the Reverend Joshua Jones 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, as also that the said corporation and their successors aforesaid at all times hereafter shall be able and capable to purchase, have, receive, take, hold and en-

joy, 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 sum or sums of money and any manner or portion of goods and chattels that have been or shall be given or bequeathed to them by any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate capable to make a gift or bequest there of, such money, goods and chattels to be laid out by them in a purchase or purchases of lands, tenements, messuages, houses, rents, annuities or hereditaments to them and their successors forever.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P. L.) Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in the disposal and application of the public moneys of the said corporation or in the making sale or disposition of any part or parcel of the real or personal estate of the said corporation for any purposes and public notice being given to the congregation attending the worship of the said church as hereinafter is directed, the consent and concurrence of the major part of the said congregation who shall meet in consequence of such notice and who shall be qualified as hereinafter is directed shall be had and obtained and the votes hereinafter directed to be taken shall be by ballot, and also that the said trustees in like manner qualified shall be admitted to vote therein as members of the said congregation.

[Section IV.] (Section V. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their successors or a majority of them from time to time after public notice 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 said congregation shall be dismissed or after regular notice in writing left at the house of each trustee, and the business having been previously mentioned at one meeting at the least of the said trustees be authorized and empowered, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to make rules, by laws and ordinances, and to do everything need-

ful for the good government and support of the secular affairs of the said church.

(Section VI. P. L.) Provided always, That the said rules, by-laws and ordinances or any of them be not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth and that all the proceedings of the said church and congregation and of the said trustees in pursuance of this act, shall be fairly and regularly entered in a church book to be kept for that purpose, and also that the said trustees and their successors by a majority of them when met as aforesaid after such notice as aforesaid be authorized and empowered and they are hereby authorized and empowered to elect and appoint from among themselves a president and also elect and appoint from among themselves or others a treasurer and secretary, and the same president, treasurer and secretary or any of them at their pleasure to remove, change, alter or continue as to them or a majority of them so met as aforesaid from time to time shall seem to be most for the benefit of the said church and corporation.

Section V. (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 device and inscription as they shall think proper, and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

[Section VI.] (Section VIII. 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 Baptist Church in New Britain Township in the County of Bucks," aforesaid shall be able and capable in law to sue or be sued, plead or 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 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 VII.] (Section IX. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall

always consist of five members of whom the major part shall be or such who are members of and in full communion with said church called and known by the name of "The Trustees of the Baptist Church in New Britain Township in the County of Bucks," 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 are stated worshipers with the said church for not less than one whole year before such choice, and have paid the sum of five shillings yearly towards the support of the said church and shall not at any time of voting be more than one-half year in arrears for the same.

[Section VIII.] (Section X. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Joshua Jones, Edward Matthew, Thomas Jones, Morris Morris and Benjamin Matthew 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 second Monday in the month of May 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 of them or of so many others in their stead and place, the major part whereof to be in full communion with the said church as aforesaid 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 XI. P. L.) Provided always, That the pastor or pastors of the said church for the time being shall be entitled to vote equally as any other member of the said church or congregation.

(Section XII. P. L.) Provided also, That all and every person or persons qualified as aforesaid to vote shall and may be capable and able to be elected a trustee aforesaid, except in case of the said church having two or more pastors, that then one only of them shall be eligible to serve as a trustee at the same time.

(Section XIII. P. L.) And provided also, That in case of

failure of holding an election annually on the day before appointed by this act, that then it shall be lawful on due notice given as aforesaid to hold an election for the choice of trustees as aforesaid at any time after, so as not to exceed the space of one month from the day first appointed by this act.

(Section XIV. P. L.) Provided always, That whenever any vacancy happens by the death, refusal to serve or removal of any [or] more of the trustees aforesaid pursuant to the directions of this act an election shall be had of some fit person or persons in his or their stead and place so dying, refusing or removing as soon as conveniently can be done, and that 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 herein before is directed and appointed for notifying and publishing the meeting of the congregation.

[Section IX.] (Section XV. P. L.) Provided always 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 or burials, which said moneys 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 September 6, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 142, etc.