

money shall be received by the trustees and disposed of by them in the manner hereinbefore directed.

Passed September 11, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 134, etc.

CHAPTER MCCXXXIX.

AN ACT FOR CONFIRMING AND AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CONGREGATION IN THE BOROUGH OF LANCASTER IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas the members of the corporation called and known by the name of "The Minister, Trustees, Elders and Deacons of the German Reformed congregation in the borough of Lancaster, in the county of Lancaster, in the province of Pennsylvania," by their petition have shown that on the sixteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one by the charter of the then proprietaries Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, esquires, they were incorporated by the name, style and title aforesaid:

And whereas the said congregation have not acted or proceeded under the said charter, and as doubts have arisen whether the said charter is now become forfeit by reason of non-user.

[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 said corporation be confirmed and established as a body corporate and politic in law and in fact to have continuance for ever by the name, style and title of "The Minister, Trustees, Elders and Deacons of the German Reformed Congregation in the Borough of Lancaster, in the County of Lancaster, in the state of Pennsylvania," and the said corporation is hereby vested, confirmed and established in all and singular the estates, rights, privileges and immunities which to them in and by the said charter were granted and

given or in consequence thereof to them of right belong and appertain or ought so to do.

[Section II.] (Section III. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That such and so many of the fundamental articles of the said congregation mentioned and referred to in the said charter as are not altered or repealed in and by this act and are not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth shall be, remain and continue forever valid and effectual.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the proviso or clause in the said charter which requires that the by-laws, rules and ordinances of the said corporation be not repugnant to the laws of Great Britain or the laws then in force in the province of Pennsylvania, be and the same is hereby repealed, annulled and made void.

[Section IV.] (Section V. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Reverend William Hendel, the present minister, Peter Hoofnagle, Nicholas Job and Christopher Crawford the present trustees, Jacob Weaver, Peter Beier, Conrad Haas, John Hatz, Barnard Wolff and Andrew Bausman, the present elders, Andrew Bachenstofe, Caspar Fordney, John Getz, Jacob Koeler, Andrew Teyer and Michael Grubb, the present deacons and their successors duly elected and appointed in such manner and form as hereinafter is directed and required, be and they are hereby confirmed, constituted and appointed to be and forever remain the members of the said corporation.

[Section V.] (Section VI. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall at all times hereafter consist of the minister of the said congregation duly chosen from time to time, three trustees, six elders and six deacons, and that the above mentioned trustees, elders and deacons respectively shall be and continue members of the said corporation until they be removed in manner following, that is to say, one-third part in number of the trustees, elders and deacons [aforesaid] being the third part first herein named shall cease and discontinue and their appointment determine on the first Monday in January, 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 so many others in their place and stead by a majority of the members of the corporation and congregation met and qualified to vote and elect according to the true intent and meaning of this act, and that such election shall be held in such manner and at such place as the said corporation and their successors shall from time to time direct, and on the first Monday in January which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, the second third part in number of the trustees, elders and deacons herein mentioned shall in like manner cease and discontinue and their appointment determine and a new election shall be had and held in like manner of an equal number in their place and stead, and on the first Monday in January which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, the last third part in number of the said trustees, elders and deacons herein mentioned shall cease and discontinue and their appointment determine and a new election shall be had and held in like manner of an equal number in their place and stead, and that in the same manner, and by the like mode of rotation one-third part in number of the trustees, elders and deacons shall cease and discontinue, and their appointment determine and a new election of the said third part be had and held in manner aforesaid on the first Monday in January in every year forever, so that no person or persons shall continue to be a trustee, elder or deacon for any longer time than three years without being re-elected, but that the electors qualified to vote as aforesaid shall and may be at liberty to reelect the same trustees, elders and deacons or any one or more of them whose times shall expire on the day of the said annual election whenever and so often as they shall think fit.

(Section VII. P. L.) Provided always nevertheless, [That] whenever any circumstance or concurrence of circumstances shall happen to prevent the holding an election at the periods aforementioned for trustees, elders and deacons in stead and place of those whose appointment shall have ceased and determined an election shall be held as soon as conveniently can be done in the manner before directed and that the remaining

members of the said corporation have power to call a meeting of the electors of the said congregation for such purposes.

[Section VI.] (Section VIII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever any vacancy shall happen by death, refusal to serve or removal from office of any one or more of the trustees, elders and deacons, the said corporation shall have full power at their discretion to appoint the time and place for electing others in their stead, and that the person or persons so elected, shall be, remain and continue in office so long as the person or persons in whose place or stead he or they shall have been so elected, would or might have continued, but before any of the aforesaid elections be held public notice shall be given to the congregation the preceding Sunday after divine service, and before the congregation is dismissed or in any other convenient manner as the said corporation and their successors shall think fit.

Passed September 11, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 153, etc.

CHAPTER MCCXL.

AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION OF BENSALEM IN THE COUNTY OF BUCKS.

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

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