

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

the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met and by the authority of the same, That John Clark, John Proul, John Vandegrift, Esquires, Jacob Vandegrift, Daniel Larew, junior, and Herman Vansont and their successors, duly elected and appointed as herein after 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 Bensalem 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 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, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments which at any time heretofore have been granted, bargained, sold, enfeoffed, released, devised or otherwise conveyed to the said congregation of Bensalem now under the pastoral care of the Reverend James Boyd, 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 their original use and intention. And the said corporation and their successors are hereby declared to be so seized and possessed of such estate and estates therein as in and by the respective grants, bargains, sales, enfeoffments, devises or other conveyance thereof is or are declared, limited or expressed, as also that the said corporation and their successors at all times hereafter shall be able and capable to purchase to have and to hold, by any legal manner of conveyance, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments by the gift or other conveyance of any person or persons, bodies politic or incorporate, capable and able to make the same; and further that the said corporation may take and receive any sum or sums of money, or any portion of goods and chattels that shall be given to them by any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, capable of making such gift or bequest.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P. L.) Be it further enacted by

the authority aforesaid, That the rents, profits and interest of the said real and personal estate of the aforesaid corporation and congregation shall from time to time be applied and laid out by the said trustees and their successors for the maintenance and support of the gospel ministry in said congregation, for repairing and maintaining, altering or making additions to their house of public worship, lot or lots of land, burial ground, and such other pious and charitable uses as shall be thought proper by a majority of the said congregation at large called together on due notice to give their free vote in such case. And further that no part of said estate either real or personal shall be alienable or liable to any charge or encumbrance whatever, except in the manner and for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned.

[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 may from time to time meet either on their own adjournments or on public notice from the pulpit the preceding Lords day, immediately after divine service and before the congregation be dispersed or on notice in writing left at the house of each trustee and that the said trustees being so met be authorized and empowered and they are hereby authorized and empowered to elect and appoint from among themselves a president, and also to elect and appoint from themselves or other members of the said congregation a treasurer and secretary and to remove, change or continue all or either of them at pleasure as shall seem to be most for the benefit of said corporation.

(Section VI. P. L.) Provided nevertheless, That the meeting or meetings of said corporation be not called without concurrence of two or more trustees or of three or more members of the congregation with the president, or without the particular business and reasons of the meeting being specified with the notification.

[Section V.] (Section VII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustee or a majority of them met as is hereinbefore directed shall be authorized and empowered and they are hereby authorized and empowered to

make rules, by-laws and ordinances, and to do everything needful for the government and support of the secular affairs of said congregation and 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 VIII. P. L.) Provided, That said by-laws, rules and ordinances or any of them be not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth, and that all their laws and proceedings be fairly and regularly entered and kept in a book provided for that purpose.

[Section VI.] (Section IX. 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 Bensalem in the county of Bucks," 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, causes, matters and demands of whatsoever kind, nature 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, bodies politic or corporate, within this commonwealth may or can do.

[Section VII.] (Section X. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall always consist of six members called and known by the name of "The Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of Bensalem in the County of Bucks," and the said members shall at all times hereafter be chosen by ballot by a majority of such members of the said congregation met together as shall have been enrolled as stated worshippers with said congregation for at least the space of one year, and shall have paid one year's pew rent or other sum of money not less than ten shillings and are not in arrear above one year for the same for the use and benefit of the said congregation and corporation.

(Section XI. P. L.) Provided always, That the pastor or minister of the said congregation for the time being shall be entitled to a vote equally with any other member of said congregation.

[Section VIII.] (Section XII. P. L.) And be it further en-

acted by the authority aforesaid, That the said John Clark, John Proul, John Vandegrift, Esquires, Jacob Vandegrift, Daniel Larew, Junior, and Herman Vansavt the first and present trustees hereby incorporated shall be and continue trustees until removed in manner following, viz: One third part in number of said trustees being the third part herein first named shall cease and discontinue and their appointment determine on the first Thursday in May, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and the second third part herein named on the first Thursday in May which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, and in like manner the appointment of the last third part herein mentioned shall cease and determine on the first Thursday of May which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, on which days in each of the aforementioned years respectively new elections shall be held of other trustees instead and in place of those whose appointments shall have ceased and terminated, which manner of discontinuance, determination and new appointment or election shall be continued on the first Thursday in May in every year hereafter forever, so that no person shall be or continue a trustee longer than three years together without being re-elected, which may be done whenever and as often as the members of said congregation qualified as aforesaid to vote shall think fit.

(Section XIII. P. L.) Provided always, That whenever any vacancy shall happen by the death, refusal to serve or other removal of any one or more of the said trustees, an election shall be held as soon as conveniently can be done, and some fit person or persons chosen and appointed as before directed to supply such vacancy and that the remaining trustees have power to call a meeting of the electors of the said congregation for that purpose.

[Section IX.] (Section XIV. P. L.) Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the clear yearly value, interest, or income of the lands, tenements, rents, annuities, or other hereditaments and real estate of the said corporation shall not exceed five hundred pounds current money

of Pennsylvania exclusive of pew rents and other free contributions belonging to the aforesaid congregation, which said money shall be received by the said trustees and disposed of by them for the purposes and in the manner hereinbefore described and directed.

Passed September 11, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 140, etc.

CHAPTER MCCXLI.

AN ACT AMENDING THE PENAL LAWS OF THIS STATE.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas by the thirty-eighth section of the second chapter of the constitution of this commonwealth it is declared, "That the penal laws as heretofore used should be reformed by the legislature of this state as soon as may be and punishments made in some cases less sanguinary and in general more proportionate to the crimes." And by the thirty-ninth section that, "To deter more effectually from the commission of crimes by continued visible punishment of long duration, and to make sanguinary punishment less necessary, houses ought to be provided for punishing by hard labor those who shall be convicted of crimes not capital, wherein the criminal shall be employed for the benefit of the public or for reparation of injuries done to private persons."

And whereas it is the wish of every good government to reclaim rather than to destroy, and it being apprehended that the cause of human corruptions proceed more from the impunity of crimes than from the moderation of punishments, and it having been found by experience that the punishments directed by the laws now in force as well for capital as other inferior offences do not answer the principal ends of society in inflicting them, to wit, to correct and reform the offenders, and to produce such strong impression upon the minds of others as to deter them from committing the like offences, which is conceived may be better effected by continued hard labor, publicly and disgracefully imposed on persons convicted of them, not