

## CHAPTER MCCLXXXIX.

AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION  
OF NEW LONDON IN THE COUNTY OF CHESTER.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas the Presbyterian congregation of New London in the county of Chester 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 such charitable donations and bequests as may from time to time be made to their society, and vested with such powers and privileges as are enjoyed by other religious societies who are incorporated in this state:

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 Robert Finney, Senior, Elijah McGlenachen, Andrew Boyd, David Mackey, Esquire, William Sherer, Alexander Morrison, Alexander Fulton, Joseph Strawbridge and John McDowell and their successors duly elected and appointed in such manner as hereinafter 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 New London in the county of Chester."

[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 aforesaid Presbyterian Congregation of New London 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 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 at all times hereafter shall be able and capable to purchase, have, hold, receive and enjoy in fee simple or of any other less estate or estates any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments by the gift, bargain, sale, alienation, enfeoffment, release, confirmation or devise of any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate 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, such money, goods and chattels to be laid out and disposed of for the use and benefit of the aforesaid congregation agreeable to the intention of the donors.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the rents, profits and interests of the said real and personal estate of the aforesaid corporation and congregation shall by the said trustees and their successors from time to time be applied and laid out by them for the maintenance and support of the gospel ministry in the said congregation for repairing and maintaining their house of public worship, lots of land, burial ground and such other pious and charitable uses as shall be thought proper by a majority of the congregation at large called together on due notice to give their free vote in such case.

[Section IV.] (Section V. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when and as often as it may become necessary to rebuild, enlarge or otherwise alter the house of public worship belonging to the aforesaid congrega-

tion and corporation or to erect any new buildings or to make any new purchases for the use of said congregation, then and in such case it may be lawful for the aforesaid trustees and their successors to make sale or otherwise dispose of such part or parcel of the said estate, real or personal as a majority of the regular members of said congregation shall by their vote direct the money arising from such sale or disposal to be laid out and applied agreeable to the vote of the aforesaid majority.

[Section V.] (Section VI. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their successors shall not by deed or any otherwise, grant, alien, convey or otherwise dispose of any part or parcel of the estate, real or personal in the said corporation vested or to be hereafter vested or change or encumber the same to any person or persons whatsoever except in the manner and for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned.

[Section VI.] (Section VII. 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 as often as they may think necessary for the benefit of the said corporation, either on their own adjournments or on public notice from the pulpit the preceding Sabbath immediately after divine service and before the congregation is dismissed or on regular notice in writing left at the house of each trustee, and that the 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 from among themselves and other members of said congregation a treasurer and secretary and to remove, change and continue all or either of them at pleasure as shall seem to be most for the benefit of said congregation. Provided nevertheless, That the meeting or meetings of said corporation be not called without the concurrence of two or more trustees or of three or more respectable members of said congregation with the president or without the particular business or reasons of the meeting being specified with the notification.

[Section VII.] (Section VIII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees 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 and by-laws and ordinances and to do everything needful for the government and support of the secular affairs of said congregation. Provided, 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 laws and proceedings be fairly and regularly entered in a book kept for that purpose.

[Section VIII.] (Section IX. 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 IX.] (Section X. 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 New London in the County of Chester," 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 whatever kind, nature or form they may be and all and every matter and thing therein to do in as full and effective a manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate within this commonwealth may or can do.

[Section X.] (Section XI. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall always consist of nine members called and known by the name of "The Trustees of the Presbyterian congregation of New London in the County of Chester," 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 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 for the use and benefit of the said congregation and corporation. Provided always, That the pastor or minister of the said congre-

gation for the time being shall be entitled to vote equally with every member of said congregation and also that every person or persons qualified to vote and elect as aforesaid shall and may be also capable of being voted and elected a trustee as aforesaid.

[Section XI.] (Section XII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Robert Finney, [senior], Elijah McGlenahan, Andrew Boyd, David Mackey, Esquire, William Sherer, Alexander Morrison, Alexander Fulton, Joseph Strawbridge and John McDowell, the first and present trustees hereby incorporated shall be and continue trustees until removed in the following manner, 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 Monday of May which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, and the second third part herein mentioned shall cease, discontinue and their appointment determine on the first Monday in May which shall be in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, and in like manner the appointment of the last third part herein mentioned shall cease and determine on the first Monday in May which shall be in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety, 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 Monday in May in each and every year thereafter forever so that no person shall continue or be 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 to vote as before described shall think fit.

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 and election shall be held as soon as conveniently can be done and one 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 XII.] (Section XIII. P. L.) Provided always and it is hereby 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 said corporation shall not exceed the sum of five hundred pounds gold or silver money at the current value thereof in the commonwealth 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 the manner hereinbefore described and directed.

Passed March 28, 1787. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 224, etc.  
The Act in the text was in part repealed by the Act of Assembly passed September 24, 1789, Chapter 1441.

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## CHAPTER MCCC.

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A SUPPLEMENT TO AN ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR REESTABLISHING THE CHARACTER OF THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.<sup>1</sup>

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas the trustees of the Second Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia by their petition have shown that by certain clauses and provisos in their charter re-established and confirmed by an act of general assembly passed on the third day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty, they are restricted and disabled from alienating, encumbering or in any manner disposing of any part or parcel of their estate unless the building erected for public worship should be burned down or otherwise destroyed whereby the said trustees are prevented from making

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<sup>1</sup>Act passed March 3rd, 1780, Chapter 885.