

cessors 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 VII.] (Section VIII, 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 courts, before any judge or judges, justice or justices in all and all manner of suits, complaints, causes, matters and demands of whatsoever kind, nature or form they may be and all and every other matter and thing therein to do in as full and effectual a manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate in this commonwealth in the like cases may or can do.

[Section VIII.] (Section IX, P. L.) Provided also and it is further 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 two thousand pounds lawful money of the state of Pennsylvania, to be taken and esteemed exclusive of the moneys arising from the contributions of the actual members and donations of the honorary members or other friends to the said institution.

Passed February 27, 1788. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 358.

CHAPTER MCCCXXXIII.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION OF THE BIG SPRING IN NEWTOWN TOWNSHIP IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the members of the first Presbyterian Church of Big Spring in the county of Cumberland now under the pastoral care of the Reverend Samuel Wilson have in a petition to this house prayed that their said church may

be incorporated and by law enabled as a body politic and corporate 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:

And whereas it is just and right and agreeably 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 David Sterret, Robert Patterson, Charles Leiper, Randle Blair, John McKeehan, Samuel Finley and John Carson and their successors duly elected and appointed in such manner and form 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 First Presbyterian Church in Newtown Township in the County of Cumberland," that the said corporation and their successors by the name style and title aforesaid shall forever hereafter be capable and able in law as well to take, have, receive, hold and enjoy 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 Presbyterian church, the congregation worshipping there or to any other person or persons to their use or in trust for them, and the said 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 ex-

pressed, and 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 enjoy 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 politic and corporate capable and able to make the same: And further that the said corporation as aforesaid 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 bequest thereof and the said corporation are declared to be capable and able and they are hereby authorized and empowered to grant, bargain, sell, convey, assure, demise and to farm-let, place out at interest or otherwise dispose of the same in such manner as to them or a majority of them, as hereinafter is directed shall deem most beneficial and serviceable to the society. Provided always, That the said trustees and their successors shall not by any deed, fine or recovery or by any other way or means grant, bargain, sell, alien, or otherwise dispose of any manors, messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments, the real estate of the said church in them or their successors vested or hereafter to be vested, nor charge nor encumber the same to any person or persons whatever except the same be done by consent of a majority of the regular members of the said church qualified to vote as hereinafter is directed.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees and their successors or the majority of two-thirds of them met from time to time either on their own adjournments or on public notice from the desk or pulpit of said church the preceding Lord's day, commonly called Sunday, immediately after divine service before the congregation is dismissed or after regular notice in writing left at the house of each trustee and the particular business having been mentioned as least one meeting of the trustees before, be authorized and empowered to make rules,

by-laws and ordinances and to do everything needful for the good government and support of the secular affairs of the said church. Provided, That the said rules, by-laws and ordinances or any of them be not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth and that all their proceedings be fairly and regularly entered in a church book to be kept for that purpose. Provided also, That the said trustees and their successors do and shall yearly and every year upon the day of election of new trustees render a full and satisfactory account plainly stated to the congregation or a committee of the congregation appointed to receive the same of all and every part of their proceedings while in trust.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall always consist of seven members called and known by the name, style and title of "The trustees of the First Presbyterian Church in Newtown Township in the County of Cumberland," and shall at all times hereafter be chosen by ballot by a majority of the members met together as shall have been enrolled in the aforesaid book as stated worshippers with the said church for no less than the space of one year and shall have paid one year's pew rent or other annual sum of money not less than one dollar for the support of the pastor or other officers of the church or other necessary expenses of the said church and shall not at the time of voting be more than one year in arrear for the same.

Provided always, That the making sale and disposition of any part or parcel of the real estate of the said corporation as well as the election of trustees and all matters that require the consent and concurrence of the major part of the congregation shall be determined by the plurality of the [votes of the] members so met, that the said trustees and their successors met as aforesaid be authorized and empowered to elect from among themselves a president and to elect from among themselves or other members of the said congregation a treasurer and secretary and the whole or any of them to remove, change, alter or continue at pleasure as shall seem most for the benefit of the said church and corporation.

[Section IV.] (Section V, 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 pleasure.

[Section V.] (Section VI, 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 capable and able in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court or courts, before any judge or judges, justice or justices in all manner of suits, complaints, pleas, causes, matters and demands of whatever nature, kind 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 and corporate within this commonwealth may or can do.

[Section VI.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the pastor or minister of the said church for the time being shall be entitled to vote equally with any other member of the said congregation and that all and every person or persons qualified to vote and elect as aforesaid shall and may be capable and able to be voted and elected a trustee.

[Section VII.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said David Sterret, Robert Patterson, Charles Leiper, Randle Blair, John McKeehan, Samuel Finley and John Carson the first and present trustees hereby incorporated shall be and continue trustees until removed in the manner following, that is to say, two sevenths in number of the said trustees being the two first herein named shall cease and discontinue and their appointment determine on the first Tuesday in November, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine and two-sevenths being the second two herein mentioned shall cease and discontinue and their appointments determine on the first Tuesday in November which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety and on the first

Tuesday in November in the year then next following three sevenths being the last three in number of the said trustees shall in like manner cease and discontinue and their appointment determine, on which in each of the aforesaid mentioned years, respectively new elections shall be held of other trustees in stead and in place of those whose appointments shall have ceased and terminated, which manner of discontinuance, determination and new appointments or election shall be continued on the said first Tuesday in November 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 the said congregation qualified to vote as afore described shall think fit.

Provided always, That whenever any vacancy shall happen by death, refusal to serve or other removal of 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 congregation for such purposes.

[Section VIII.] (Section IX, P. L.) Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the clear yearly value, interest and income of the lands, tenements, rents, annuities and other hereditaments and real estate of the 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 purpose and in the manner hereinbefore directed and described.

Passed February 27, 1788. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 354.