

tinue to hold and exercise their offices until others shall be duly elected to succeed them at some future meeting of the said corporation.

Passed December 8, 1789. Recorded L. B. No. 4, p. 46.

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## CHAPTER MCDLXXVII.

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AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
(KNOWN BY THE NAME OF SAINT GEORGES CHURCH) IN THE CITY  
OF PHILADELPHIA IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal church in the city of Philadelphia have prayed that their said congregation may be incorporated and by law enabled as a body politic and corporate to receive, hold and enjoy such charitable donations and bequests as have heretofore been or which hereafter may be made to their society and vested with such powers and privileges as are enjoyed by other religious societies who are incorporated in this commonwealth:

And whereas this house is disposed to exercise the power vested in the legislature of this commonwealth for the encouragement of pious and charitable purposes:

[Section II.] (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 Reverend John Dickins, the present minister, Robert Fitzgerald, Jacob Baker, Thomas Armat, James Doughty, Josiah Lusby, John Hood, Burton Wallace, John Bond and Henry Manly and their successors duly elected and appointed in such manner as is hereinafter directed be and they are hereby made, declared and constituted to be a corporation and body politic and corporate in law and in fact to have continuance forever by the name, style and title of "The Methodist Episcopal Church in the city of Philadelphia in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

[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 given, granted, bargained, sold, enfeoffed, released, devised or otherwise conveyed to the said church and congregation 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, gift 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 their respective grants, bargains, sales, enfeoffments, releases, devises or other conveyances thereof is or are declared and limited or expressed. As also that the said corporation and their successors at all times hereafter shall be capable and able to purchase, have, receive, take, hold and enjoy in fee simple or other lesser 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 and their successors may take and receive any sum or sums of money and any portion or portion[s] of goods and chattels which have been or at any time hereafter may or shall be given or bequeathed to them or to the said church by any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate able and capable to make a bequest or gift thereof, such money, goods or chattels to be laid out and disposed of for the use and benefit of the said church and congregation agreeably to the true intent and meaning of the respective donors.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) Provided always and be it

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 the sum of five hundred pounds, gold or silver money at the present current value thereof in the commonwealth aforesaid exclusive of the voluntary contributions of the members of the said church from time to time for the support of their minister or ministers for the time being.

[Section IV.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the rents, issues, profits and interests of the said real and personal estate of and belonging to the said church and corporation and their successors shall from time to time be applied and laid out for the maintenance and support of the minister for the time being who shall and may from time to time be duly appointed to the pastoral charge of the said church and congregation by the bishop or bishops, elders, deacons and preachers who compose the assembly and conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania or elsewhere within the United States of America. As also for repairing and maintaining their said church or place of public worship, lot or lots of land burial grounds, parsonage house or other houses and buildings which now do or at any time hereafter may or shall belong to the said church and corporation as shall from time to time be thought proper or expedient by two thirds of the trustees for the time being, nevertheless when two thirds of the trustees are not agreed with respect to the application of money as aforesaid then and in such case the minister for the time being duly authorized and appointed as aforesaid shall have a voice which with either the majority or minority of the trustees present shall be final and decisive.

[Section V.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation 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 vested or charge or encumber the same to any person or persons whatsoever except it be with the approbation and consent of

the minister or ministers for the time being duly authorized and appointed as aforesaid and concurrence of two thirds of the regular male members of the said church of at least twenty-one years of age and of one year's standing.

[Section VI.] (Section VII, P. L.) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors [by the name of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the city of Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania] shall have full power and authority to make, have and use one common seal with such device and inscription as they shall think fit and proper and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

[Section VII.] (Section VIII, P. L.) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors by the name of "The Methodist Episcopal Church in the city of Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," 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 suit, complaints, pleas, matters and demands of whatsoever kind, nature and 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 VIII.] (Section IX, P. L.) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no misnomer of the said corporation and their successors shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise or bequest to or from the said corporation provided the intent of the party or parties shall sufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, grant, will or other writing whereby any estate or interest was intended to pass to or from the said corporation and their successors, nor shall any disuser or non-user of the rights, liberties, privileges jurisdictions and authorities hereby granted to the said corporation and their successors or any of them create or cause a forfeiture thereof.

[Section IX.] (Section X, P. L.) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall at all times hereafter consist of the ministers of the said con-

gregation (who shall from time to time be duly authorized and appointed to the pastoral charge of the same by the bishop or bishops, elders, deacons and preachers who compose the assembly and conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held in the commonwealth aforesaid or elsewhere within the United States of America) and nine trustees duly qualified chosen and appointed as is hereinafter mentioned described and directed; who shall be and continue members of the said corporation until they be removed in manner and form following, that is to say, one third part in number of the trustees aforesaid being the third part herein first named shall cease and be discontinued and their appointment determine on the day commonly called Easter Monday which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety, 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 male members of the said congregation met and qualified to note and elect as is hereinafter mentioned, described and directed; and that such election shall and may be held in such manner and at such place as the said corporation shall from time to time appoint and direct. And on the day commonly called Easter Monday which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one the second third part in number of the trustees aforesaid shall in like manner cease and be discontinued 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 day commonly called Easter Monday which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, the last third part in number of the trustees aforesaid shall cease and be discontinued and their appointment determine and a new election [shall] be had and held in like manner and by the like mode of rotation one third part in number of the trustees shall cease and be discontinued and their appointment determine and a new election of the said third part to be had and held in manner and form aforesaid, on the day commonly called Easter Monday in every year forever, to the intent that no person

or persons shall continue to be a trustee or trustees for any longer time than three years without being re-elected but that the electors qualified to vote as is hereinafter mentioned described and directed shall and may be at liberty to re-elect the same trustees 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 expedient. Provided always nevertheless, That whenever any circumstance or concurrence of circumstances shall prevent the holding of an election for trustees at the period aforementioned in the stead and place of those whose appointments shall have ceased and determined then and in such case an election shall be held as soon as conveniently may be done in manner and form aforesaid and that the remaining members of the said corporation shall have power to call a meeting of the electors of the said congregation for such purpose.

[Section X.] (Section XI, P. L.) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever any vacancy shall happen by death, refusal to serve or expulsion from membership (according to the discipline and rules of the said church) of any [one] or more of the said trustees, the said corporation shall have full power at their discretion to appoint the time and place for the purpose of electing a trustee or trustees (as the case may be) in their stead and that the person or persons so elected shall be and continue in office so long as the person or persons in whose place or stead he or they may have been so elected would or might have continued in order to keep up the number of nine trustees forever. But before any of the aforesaid elections are held public notice shall be given to the congregation on the preceding Sunday after divine service and before the congregation is dismissed or in any other convenient manner which the said corporation shall think expedient.

[Section XI.] (Section XII, P. L.) Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no person or persons shall be entitled to a vote at an election for trustees who is not a regular male member or members (according to the rules and discipline of the said church) of at least twenty-one years of age and of

one year's standing. And that no person or persons whatsoever may or shall be eligible as a member of the said corporation who is not at the time of his election a regular male member (according to the rules and regulations mentioned in the form of discipline of the said church as composed, agreed to and now established by the bishops, elders, deacons and preachers who compose the assembly and conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America) of twenty-one years of age and of at least two year's standing.

[Section XII.] (Section XIII, P. L.) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the members of the said corporation shall and may from time to time elect by vote or ballot from among their own [number] a president who shall continue in office for one year and then another may be elected or the former re-elected. And in case of the absence of the president then and in such case any other member of the said corporation may be elected and shall act as president for the time being. And the said corporation may and shall elect by vote or ballot a treasurer and secretary from among themselves or from among the regular male members of their church and congregation and may remove them at their pleasure. And that the minister or ministers for the time being or any other three members of the said corporation shall be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to call a meeting of the corporation when and so often as he or they or any three members as aforesaid shall deem it necessary or shall be requested so to do by a majority of the regular male members (as aforesaid) of the said church, that the said corporation or two thirds of them met and convened shall be authorized and empowered and they are hereby authorized and empowered to make such by-laws, rules and ordinances as they shall judge necessary. Provided always, That the said by-laws, rules and ordinances or any of them be not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth and to the laws of the United States. And also that all their laws and proceedings from time to time be by their secretary fairly and regularly entered in the books or records of the said church.

[Section XIII.] (Section XIV, P. L.) Provided nevertheless, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no powers and authorities by this act given or intended to be given to the said corporation shall be understood taken or construed in any wise to prohibit, prevent or to take from the minister of the said church for the time being duly authorized and appointed as aforesaid the religious use, benefit and enjoyment of the said church (known by the name of Saint George's Church or of any other church or churches which may at any time hereafter be purchased or built by the said corporation) in the city of Philadelphia or the liberties thereof but that the same shall be and forever hereafter continue to be had, used and enjoyed by them as heretofore and by no other person or persons whatsoever unless by particular license and consent of the minister for the time being and concurrence of two thirds of the trustees for the time being anything in this act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed December 8, 1789. Recorded L. B. No. 4, p. 51.

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### CHAPTER MCDLXXVIII.

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#### A SUPPLEMENT TO AN ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE BREED OF HORSES, AND REGULATE RANGERS."<sup>1</sup>

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the seventh section of an act of the general assembly of Pennsylvania entitled "An act to improve the breed of horses and regulate rangers," requires that horses taken up by the rangers of the respective counties shall be advertised in every county of the state before they may be sold, and the said act having been made at a period in the late province of Pennsylvania when the counties were but few and the settlements not very extensive:

And whereas the present state of population in this state and the extent of the settlements renders it very difficult, ex-

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<sup>1</sup> Passed May 9, 1724, Chapter 279.