

CHARTER

To all to Whom these presents shall come. We it knowen, that the Persons whose names are subscribed citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having associated themselves together for the purpose of worshipping Almighty God, and being desirous of acquiring and enjoying the powers and immunities of a Corporation and body politic in Law, it is hereby declared;

Section I. That the said Subscribers and their Successors being Citizens as aforesaid Be, and they are hereby constituted and declared to be one body politic and corporate in Law by the name, style and title of, *The African Presbyterian Congregation*, of the City of Philadelphia, to have perpetual succession and to be able to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded in all courts of record and elsewhere and to take receive purchase hold and enjoy to them and their Successors Lands Tenements and Hereditaments Goods and Chattels, of whatever nature kind, or quality, real personal or mixed and the same from time to time to sell grant demise alien or dispose of according to the Objects, Articles and Conditions of this Instrument or according to the Articles and Bye-laws of the Corporation or of the Will and Intention of the Donors and to make and have a common Seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure, and also to ordain, establish and put in execution such Bye-laws ordinances and Regulations as shall be meet for the good government and support of the Affairs of the said Corporation, not being contrary to the Law and Constitution of the United States, or of this State or to the Articles and Provisions of this Instrument of Incorporation, and generally to do all and singular the Matters and Things which to them shall appertain as a body corporate in Law **Provided always** That the clear yearly value, income interest or dividend of the said Messuages Lands Tenements Hereditaments Stock Monies Goods or Chattels shall not exceed the sum of five hundred Pounds.

Section II. That the Affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by *thirteen* Trustees to be chosen by ballot at such times and in such manner and form as is hereafter directed **Provided** That the existing Trustees shall continue to be the Trustees of this Corporation until others shall be chosen agreeably to this Instrument

Section III. On the first Monday in November every Year an Election shall be held, for the purpose of choosing *thirteen* Trustees as aforesaid of which Election notice shall be given at the usual place of the Meeting of the Congregation on the Sunday next preceding, and if by reason of accident an Election should not be held on that Day then an Election shall be held for the purpose aforesaid within one Month after notice having been given as aforesaid.

Section IV. No person shall be eligible to the Office of Trustee nor capable of voting for Trustees except a contributor of two Dollars or upwards, to the funds of the Society Annually.

Section V. That the Trustees shall meet within three Days after their Election every Year and shall choose from among themselves a President Secretary and Treasurer for one Year and shall have power to remove the same or any of them whenever in their opinion the good of the Congregation requires it.

Section VI. That a Majority of the Trustees shall form a quorum to transact all business and they shall keep fair Records of their proceedings. That their power shall extend to, letting or renting pews collecting pew rents and dues of the Corporation receiving the public collections providing a House of Worship and keeping it in repair paying the Interest and Debts of the Corporation choosing a Clerk and Sexton with full power to dismiss them, or either of them, and choose others whenever it shall seem good to the said Trustees: collecting and paying the Salaries of the Minister and fixing and paying the salaries of the Clerk and Sexton relieving the Poor of the Congregation and maintaining a school or apprentices thereto whenever the funds will admit. **Provided** That the said Trustees shall have no power to dispose of the property or expend the funds for any purpose whatever beyond two hundred Dollars per annum except as to the Salaries of the Minister Clerk and Sexton without the approbation of a Majority of the contributors possessing the qualifications required in Section IV.

Section VII. Whenever a meeting of the Congregation shall be deemed necessary by a Majority of the Trustees it shall be their duty to call the said Congregation together by giving notice in the usual form at least three Days previous to said Meeting stating the time when and the purpose for which said Meeting is to be held.

In Testimony whereof we have hereunto set our Hands this Eleventh Day of December in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nine.

John Glaston
James Prosser
Levi Gwynn
Schonon Wright

Charles Hopkins
Mary White
John Morris
Cata Freeman
Peter Lass
Jacob Wande
Oliver Barnes

