

*Charter of Incorporation of Christ Church of the Borough of Pottstown
in Montgomery County in the State of Pennsylvania*

Whereas the following named persons citizens of this Commonwealth viz: Robert E. Hobart, Charles W. Jolly, Clement S. Rutter, Furman S. Cook, Henry Potts, Robert E. Hobart, Jr., John Thomson, John Pearce, Thomas Child, Jacob Hubley, Francis Hubley, Charles H. Clay, James May, Thomas M. Brooke, Robert May, David Rutter, have together with other citizens associated for the purpose of worshipping Almighty God, according to the faith and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America and have for that purpose formed a congregation at Pottstown in Montgomery County and are now desirous to be incorporated agreeably to the provisions of the act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania entitled in act to confer on certain associations of the Citizens of this Commonwealth the powers and immunities of Corporations or bodies politic in law. They therefore declare the following to be the objects, articles, and conditions of their association agreeably to which they desire to be incorporated—viz:

First

The name of the corporation shall be the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of Christ Church in the Borough of Pottstown.

Second

This church acknowledges itself to be a member of and belong to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania and the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. As such it accedes, recognizes, and adopts the Constitution of that Church and acknowledges its authority accordingly. Any member of this Church or Corporation who shall disclaim or refuse conformity to the said authority shall cease to be a member of this Corporation and shall not be elected or vote in the election for Vestrymen or exercise any office or function in concern or connected with the said Church or Corporation.

Third

The rents and revenues of this Corporation shall be from time to time applied for the maintenance and support of the Rector, Ministers, and Officers of the said Church and in the erection and necessary repairs of the Church and church yard and parsonage house and other houses, which now do, or thereafter shall belong to the said corporation and to no other use or purpose whatsoever.

Fourth

The said Corporation shall not by Deed fine, or recovery, or by any other means without the assent of the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania or of the Standing Committee of the Diocese previously had and obtained grant, alien or otherwise dispose of any lands, messages, tenements or hereditaments in them vested nor charge nor encumber the same to any person or persons whomsoever.

Fifth

The Rector of this Church shall be elected by the Church Wardens and Vestrymen, in such manner as the Statutes and by laws shall ordain. The Vestry of the said Church shall consist of five persons, members of the said Church, who shall continue in office for one year and until others shall be chosen, and the election of such Vestry shall be made every year on Easter Monday, by a majority of such members of the said Church as shall appear by the Vestry books to have paid two successive years immediately preceding the time of such election for a pew or sitting in the said Church, provided that until the next Easter Monday after the expiration of five years from the date of this Charter, members of the said Church who shall in any way have contributed to the erection of the church, or to the support of the Rector or ministers thereof, shall be entitled to vote at the election of vestrymen. And provided that in case of the failure to elect Vestrymen on that day, the congregation shall not on that account be dissolved but the election shall be held on some other day in such manner as the by laws may prescribe.

Sixth

No person shall be the Rector or Assistant Minister of this Church unless he shall have had Episcopal Ordination and unless he be in full standing with the Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of Pennsylvania and of the United States and recognized as such by the Bishop of this Diocese or in case of a vacancy by the Standing Committee of the same.

Seventh

The said Vestry shall have full power to choose their own officers and they shall annually, at their first meeting after their election, choose one of their own members to be one Church Warden and the Rector, for the time being, shall elect another of the said Vestrymen to be the other Church Warden of the said Church. In case of a vacancy in the office of Rector at the time of the election, the other Church Warden shall also be chosen by the Vestry to remain until the election of a Rector or a new election of the Vestry. And during such vacancy the Church Wardens,

for the time being, and Vestrymen shall have the same powers and authorities relating to the disposition of the rents and revenues of the said Corporation and are hereby vested in the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen to elect another Rector to supply the vacancy as soon as conveniently may be.

Eighth

The seven following named persons to be Church Wardens and Vestrymen to continue in office until the election of Easter Monday next, and until others be chosen.

viz. Jacob Hubley, Robert E. Hobart

Church Wardens: Thomas Childs, Henry Potts, Furman S. Cook, David Rutter, and Charles H. Clay

Ninth

In case of the dissolution of this corporation for any cause whatsoever the lands, tenements, and other estate real and personal belonging thereto shall vest in the Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in whose Diocese this Church may, at the time be, and his successors to be by him and them held in trust for the benefit of a future congregation of members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which may be formed in the same neighborhood and upon the same principles as the present Church and congregation.

R. E. Hobart, Charles W. Jolly, Clement S. Rutter, Furman S. Cook, Henry Potts, Robert E. Hobart Jr., John Thompson, John Pearce, Thomas Childs, Jacob Hubly, Francis Hubly, James May, Robert May, Thomas M. Brooke, D. Rutter.

I, the inscriber Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania do certify that I have processed and examined the above testament and am of the opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth ~~unreasonable~~ are lawful.

Recording April 30th 1825 AD

Fredrick Smith

The subscribers Judges of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania do hereby notify that we have passed and examined the above instrument and we concur with the Attorney General in his opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth are lawful.

Philadelphia December 15th, 1825.

*William Tilghman
John D. Gibson
Thom Duncan*

Pennsylvania Eastern District

I, Joshua Paybold, Esq., Notary of the Supreme Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania do certify that the foregoing Charter of Incorporation was presented to the Justices of the Supreme Court and duly allowed as above set forth.

*In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Seal of the said Court to be
affixed at Philadelphia this 15th day of
December AD 1825*

Joshua Paybold

The Governor's order for enrollment was attached to the foregoing instrumental dated the first day of February AD 1826.