

CHARTER AND BY-LAWS

OF

The Church of St. Matthias,

IN THE

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

---

PHILADELPHIA :

1867.

CHARTER

OF THE

Church of St. Matthias.

---

WHEREAS, The following-named persons, citizens of this Commonwealth, viz., LEWIS R. ASHURST, JOHN W. CLAGHORN, CHARLES V. HAGNER, CHARLES E. CLARK, ISAAC C. PRICE, CHARLES C. HAFFELFINGER, ALBRA WADLEIGH, EDWARD GULAGER, JACOB EMERICK, SAMUEL SIMONS, JOHN MARSTON, Jr., JOHN R. WHITNEY, and WILLIAM STEVENSON ABBOTT, have, together with other citizens, associated for the

purpose of worshipping Almighty God, according to the faith and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and have for that purpose formed a Congregation in the Fifteenth Ward, of the City of Philadelphia, and are now desirous to be Incorporated, agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this Commonwealth, the powers and immunities of corporations, and bodies politic in law, and the supplements thereto." They, therefore, declare the following to be the objects, articles, and conditions of their said Association, agreeably to which they desire to be Incorporated, viz. :—

*First.* The name of the Corporation shall be the "CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS."

*Second.* This Church acknowledges itself to be a member of, and to belong to, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, and the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. As such it accedes to, recognizes, and adopts the Constitution, canons, doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, and of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and acknowledges their 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 of Vestrymen, or exercise any office or function in, concerning, or connected with the said Church or Corporation.

*Third.* The rents and revenues of this Corpo-

ration shall be, from time to time, applied for the maintenance and support of the Rector, Ministers, and Officers of said Church, and in the erection and necessary repairs or expenses of said Church, Church-yard, Parsonage house, and other houses, which now do, or hereafter shall, belong to the said Corporation, or in renting or furnishing any building or buildings necessary for Church purposes, and to no other use or purpose whatsoever. *Provided*, That all the property of the said Corporation shall be taken, held and inure, subject to the control and disposition of the Vestry of the same; and *Provided*, That the clear annual value or income of the real and personal estate, held by the said Corporation, shall not, at any time, exceed Five Thousand Dollars.

*Fourth.* 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 thirteen persons, lay members of the said Church, and citizens of Pennsylvania, who shall continue in office for one year, and until others be chosen, and the election of whom shall be made every year, on Easter Monday, by a majority of such adult male members of the said Church, as shall appear, by the Vestry Books, to have paid, for one year, immediately preceding the time of such election, for a pew or sitting in said Church. *Provided*, That until the first Easter Monday after the completion of the Church edifice, or use of the same for the purpose of religious worship, every contributor towards the erection of the said Church edifice, or the support of the Rector or Minister thereof, shall be entitled to vote at every election of Vestry-

men, one vote for every one hundred dollars of such contribution. *Provided*, That in case of the failure to elect Vestrymen on that day, the Corporation shall not, on that account, be dissolved; but the election shall be holden on some other day, in such manner as the By-Laws may prescribe; and any vacancy occurring in the Vestry, shall be supplied by the remaining members thereof. At the meeting of the Vestry, the Rector, if present, may preside, and in all matters, except such as concern the property of the Corporation, shall, in case of a tie, be entitled to give the casting vote.

*Fifth.* No person shall be 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 in the State of Pennsylvania, and in the United States, and recognized as such by the Bishop of this Diocese; or, in the case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, by the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

*Sixth.* The said Vestry shall have full power to choose their own officers; and they shall annually, at the first meeting after their election, choose one of their own number 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, all the powers of the Corporation shall be exercised by the Vestry, as fully and entirely as if no such vacancy had occurred.

*Provided always*, That it shall be the duty of the said Church Wardens and Vestrymen, to elect another Rector to supply the vacancy, as soon as conveniently may be.

*Seventh.* By-Laws, not inconsistent with this Charter, may be made by the Vestry, for their own government, and the regulation of the temporal affairs of the Church; and all pews and sittings in the said Church shall be held subject thereto.

*Eighth.* This Charter shall be amended in the following manner,—that is to say:—Any proposed amendment shall be submitted to a Stated or Special Meeting of the Vestry, and, if the same shall be approved by a majority of the whole of the members thereof, the same shall be submitted to a Meeting of the members of the Congregation, who are entitled to vote for Vestrymen, and, if approved by a majority of the persons present at such meeting, the same shall be submitted to the next Convention, and if by it approved, shall be and form part of the Charter, upon the subsequent confirmation thereof by the Court which granted the original Charter, or other competent authority.

*Ninth.* In case of the dissolution of the said Corporation, all the property of the same shall vest in Trustees, in trust to hold and convey the same to and for any future Congregation or members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which may be formed in the same neighborhood and to and for no other purpose; and the said Trustees shall consist of such persons as may be appointed by the proper Court, on the application of any interested party.