

## CHAP. 110.

Passed Jan. 8, 1803

\* Ch. 89.

*A Further Supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the valuation of Real and Personal Property within this State, passed November session, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven. \* Lib. JG. No. 4, fol. 336.*

This act repealed by 1803, ch. 92, s. 51.

## CHAP. CXI.

Passed Jan. 8, 1803

*An Act to incorporate certain persons in every Christian Church or Congregation in this State. Lib. JG. No. 4, fol. 337.*

Supplementary and other acts, November 1809, ch. 139. 1814, ch. 58, and 1815, ch. 222.

Preamble.

WHEREAS petitions from many religious societies have annually been preferred to this legislature, and many are now before them, praying acts of incorporation, and it is reasonable and proper that all denominations of christians within this state, whose members conduct themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner, should receive and enjoy equal rights and privileges, without partiality, preference or distinction, in all things concerning the temporalities and government of their churches, congregations and societies: And whereas also it is necessary to their welfare that they should be empowered to hold and acquire certain portions of property in a corporate or congregational capacity, and enter into various engagements of a civil or temporal nature, which can only be done by assistance of the general assembly, which assistance may nevertheless be rightfully granted without disturbing private opinions, or affecting the rights of judgment in matters of religion, or imposing an involuntary burthen on any person whatsoever: And whereas it is most convenient to make provisions for their respective situations by a general law, which shall reach their several exigencies in affairs of a temporal or civil nature, as far as a difference of circumstances will admit; the general assembly having therefore taken the premises into serious consideration, and conceiving themselves indispensably bound to secure and preserve the same equality of rights, privileges and advantages, to all quiet and inoffensive christian societies in this state, without any exception, whereby religion may be encouraged and diffused, and peace, order and universal tranquility prevail, have agreed to enact,

2. AND BE IT ENACTED, (a) That in every christian church, or society or congregation, of whatsoever sect, order or denomination, now known, or which shall at any time hereafter be known and acknowledged in this state, and protected in the free and full exercise of their religion by the constitution and laws of the same, there shall be and remain sufficient power and authority in all the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, to elect, at their discretion, certain sober and discreet persons, not less than five or more than thirteen, which persons, so elected, shall be and are hereby constituted a body politic or corporate, upon being registered as herein after directed, to act as trustees, in the name and behalf of the particular church, society or congregation, for which they are respectively chosen, and to manage the estate, property, interest and in-

(a) This act confirmed by November 1809, ch. 139, the words "By the General Assembly of Maryland," in the enacting style, having been omitted.

Certain persons incorporated in every christian church.