

May, 1774.

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Bristol:
William Hoar,
Daniel Bradford, *Esqrs.*

Tiverton:
John Bowen,
Walter Cooke,
Benjamin Hambly,
Joseph Tabor,
Benjamin Jenckes,
Gilbert Devel, *Esqrs.*

Little-Compton:
Israel Stoddard,
Aaron Wilbur,
Philip Taylor,
John Peckham, *Esqrs.*

Warren:
John Kinnicut,
William Turner Miller,
Esqrs.

Cumberland:
John Dexter,

Joseph Brown,
Peter Darling,
Nath'l Shepperdson, *usqrs.*

Richmond:
Edward Perry,
George Webb,
Robert Stanton, *Esqrs.*

Cranston:
Thomas Potter, (*Son of John*)
Christopher Lippitt,
Ezekiel Warner,
Anthony Aborn, *Esqrs.*

North Providence:
Edward Tripp,
Thomas Whipple,
Hope Angell, *Esqrs.*

Barrington:
Solomon Townsend, *jun.*
Moses Tyler, *Esqrs.*

George Cornell, Captain of *Fort-George*

An ACT incorporating certain Persons, by
the Name of *The Charitable Baptist So-*
ciety, in the Town of *Providence*, in this
Colony. Act incorpo-
rating the
Baptist Soci-
ety in *Provi-*
dence.

The GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the *English* Co-
lony of *Rhode-Island*, and *Providence Plantations*, in
New-England:

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.

WHEREAS sundry Persons, belonging to the
Congregation, assembling for the public Wor-
ship of Almighty God, with the Christian Church, cal-
led Baptist, or Antipædobaptist, in the Town of *Provi-*
dence, being the oldest Christian Church in this Colony,
and professing to believe that Water-Baptism ought to
be administered by Immersion only, and that professed
Believers

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Believers in Jesus Christ, and no others, are proper Subjects of the same, have petitioned this Assembly to grant them a Charter of Incorporation, with the Privileges and Powers herein after-mentioned : NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE, That we, the Governor and Company In General Assembly convened, do, for ourselves and our Successors, Enact, Grant, Ordain, Constitute, and Declare ; and it is hereby Enacted, Granted, Constituted, and declared, That *Paul Tew, John Brown, Nicholas Brown, John Jenckes, William Russell, Daniel Caboon, Aaron Mason, William Holroyd, Samuel Warner, Christopher Sbeldon, Benjamin Stelle, Samuel Thurbur, jun. Benjamin Alger, Martin Thurbur, Obadiab Sprague, William Wheaton, jun. Timotby Mason, Edward Thurbur, Joseph Hewes, James Wheaton, jun. James Arnold, Nicholas Power, Daniel Tillingbast, Dexter Brown, Comfort Wheaton, Martin Seamans, James Wheaton, Simon Smith, William Corlis, Joseph Tillingbast, Charles Easterbrooks, Timotby Sbeldon, jun. Charles Smith, Sylvanus Jenckes, Edward Knowles, Amos Horton, Nathaniel Saunders, Olney Windsor, and Refus Hopkins*, or such, or so many of them, as shall convene at the Baptist Meeting-House, in *Providence*, on the Second Monday in *June* next, on the Business of this Charter, & their Successors, shall be forever hereafter One Body Corporate & Politic, in Fact & Name, with perpetual Succession, to be known in the Law by the Name of *The Charitable Baptist Society*, in the Town of *Providence*, in the Colony of *Rhode-Island*, and *Providence Plantations*. And the said Charitable Society is hereby empowered to take, receive, and hold all, and any, voluntary Subscriptions, Contributions, Legacies, and Donations of any Sum, or Sums of Money, or of any real and personal Estate : Also to have, take, possess, purchase, acquire, or otherwise receive and hold, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Goods, Chattels, or other Estates ; of all which they shall, and may stand seized, notwithstanding any Misnomer of this Corporation, and by whatever Name, or however imperfectly, the same shall be described, in Donations, Legacies, Assignments, and Grants ; provided the true Intent and Meaning

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Meaning of the Assigner or Benefactor be evident : Also the said Charitable Society is hereby empowered to take, hold, and stand seized of, all Estates aforesaid, solely to and for the Use and Benefit of the said Baptist, or Antipædobaptist Church, and Congregation, and their Successors forever, and the same to use, occupy, and improve, toward the Support of Pastors, Relief of the Poor, in schooling their Children, or otherwise, or any other religious Uses in said Church and Congregation, according to the Will of the Donors, and to the Purposes, Trusts, and Uses, to which they shall be seized thereof, or the same shall be designed : Also to lease the real Estate, or the same to grant, demise, alien, or hold in Perpetuity, according to the Tenor of each particular Donation, or their Property therein ; and to let Monies on Bonds, Mortgages, or other Securities : And shall and may be Persons capable in the Law, as a Body corporate, to sue, and be sued, to plead, and be impleaded, to answer, and be answered unto, to defend, and pursue to final Judgment and Execution thereon, in all Courts and Places, and before all proper Judges whatever, in all and singular Suit, and Suits, Causes, and Actions, of what Kind soever, in the fullest and amplest Manner, by, and in the Name of, their Treasurer, for the Time being.

AND FURTHERMORE, said Body corporate, and their Successors forever hereafter, shall, and may, have a public Seal, which they may use for any Purposes or Affairs as to them shall seem expedient : Also it shall be lawful for them the same Seal to break, alter, and make anew, from Time to Time, at their Will and Pleasure.

AND be it further Enacted, That their shall be an annual Meeting of the said Charitable Society, in the said Town of *Providence*, on the Second Monday in *June*, forever ; at which Time they shall, out of their own Body politic, elect a Moderator, Treasurer, and Clerk, and such other Officers as they shall think needful : And that the Moderator, Treasurer, and Clerk, be sworn to the faithful Performance of their respective Trusts.

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AND

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AND FURTHERMORE, There shall be a quarterly Meeting of said Charitable Society, on the Second Monday in *September, December, and March*, forever : That the said Charitable Society shall have full Power to appoint any other Meetings, at such Times and Places, as to them, from Time to Time, shall seem necessary or expedient, more fully and effectually to accomplish the charitable Purposes aforesaid : And that they have Power, at any such Meetings, to appoint Committees, and transact all such Business as, according to this Charter, may regularly come before them : All which shall be done and determined by a Majority of the Members present.

AND be it further Enacted, That whatever Monies, or other Estates, both real and personal, the said Charitable Society may become seized, or possessed of, shall be and remain a capital Stock or Fund, and only the Interest, yearly Profits, or income thereof, shall be applied and appropriated to the Use of the said Baptist, or Antipædobaptist, Church and Congregation.

PROVIDED, nevertheless, and be it further Enacted, That all Donations, to the said Charitable Society, by voluntary Subscription, Contribution, Legacy, or otherwise (excepting such as shall be differently appropriated by the Donors) shall make a capital Stock or Fund for the Support of the Pastor, or Pastors, of the Church aforesaid ; and the yearly Interest or Income of the same shall be added, every Year successively, to the principal, which shall be thus augmented by Interest, and remain, Principal and Interest, unappropriated, until the yearly interest or Income of said Fund, so raised, shall amount to One Hundred Pounds, lawful Money, per Annum : After which Time the said Sum of One Hundred Pounds shall yearly be paid, by the said Charitable Society, to the Pastor or Pastors, for the Time being, of said Baptist, or Antipædobaptist, Church, & their Successors, forever : *Provided, notwithstanding*, That when, and as soon as, a capital Stock or Fund shall be, by this Means, raised, to produce One Hundred Pounds, lawful Money, per Annum, that then the Interest or yearly Income of all Donations made after-ward

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ward to said Charitable Society, the Use and Purpose of which shall not be particularly specified by the Donors, shall be appropriated as a Majority of the said Charitable Society shall order and determine at any regular Meeting.

AND be it further Enacted, That *Nicholas Brown* be the First Moderator, *Daniel Cabane* the First Treasurer, and *Benjamin Stelle* the First Clerk of the said Charitable Society, to continue in their respective Offices until the Second Monday in *June*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-five.

AND be it further Enacted, That the said Charitable Society, at any of their Meetings, may elect such Persons as they shall think proper to become Members of the same, and make such Rules, Orders, and By-Laws, and alter the same, as they, from Time to Time, shall judge necessary for the good Order of said Society; provided, that such Rules, Orders, and By-Laws, are not contrary to the Laws of this Government: And that any Seven Members of the said Charitable Society, convened at any regular Meeting (the Moderator, Treasurer, or Clerk, always to be One) are hereby declared to be a Quorum of the said Society.

AND be it further Enacted, That all Donations of whatsoever Kind, or howsoever made to the said Charitable Society, together with the Names of the Donors, and the Purposes and Uses for which said Donations shall be made, shall be entered on Record by the Clerk for the Time being, as also their yearly Income, and its Appropriation from Time to Time, forever: And that the Treasurer's Accounts be exhibited, and audited, at every annual Meeting of the said Society.

Provided, nevertheless, and be it further Enacted, That, if ever the whole Number of the said Charitable Society, for the Time being, shall be reduced below Seven, then, and in such Case, all Monies, Bonds, Mortgages, Deeds, Notes, Obligations, Books, and Papers, of every Kind, together with all the Estate, both real and personal, at that Time belonging to the said Charitable Society, shall be given up to, and the sole Property thereof be vested in, the Baptist, or Antipædobaptist,

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Church or Churches in North Providence

tist, Church and Congregation aforesaid, for whose Use and Benefit the said Charitable Society is instituted, to be received by a Committee by them appointed for that Purpose; and shall be punctually appropriated by them, to the Purposes, Trusts, and Uses, specified by the Donors to the said Charitable Society, or to which they are by this Charter empowered to appropriate the same, and no otherwise.

Provided furthermore, and it is furthermore Enacted, That no Part of this Charter shall be construed, or understood, to grant any Power or Powers to the said Charitable Society, to raise any Sum, or Sums, of Money, any otherwise than by free and voluntary Subscription, Contribution, Legacy, or Donation. And in Case, at any Time hereafter, through Misapprehension, or mistaken Construction, of the Powers contained in this Charter, any Laws shall be enacted, or any Matters done & transacted, by this Corporation, contrary to the Tenor hereof, such Laws, Acts, and Doings, shall be in themselves null and void; but shall never be adjudged into an Avoidance, Defeazance, or Forfeiture of this Charter, but the same shall remain entire to the said Corporation, in perpetual Succession, forever. And all their Acts conformable to its Powers, Tenor, true Intent, and Meaning, shall be, and remain of full Force and legal Validity.

It is Voted and Resolved, That William Bradford,
W. Bradford,
to assist the
Attorney-
General in
carrying on
Actions in Be-
half of the
Colony.
Elq; be added to *Henry Marchant, Elq;* as Attorney, to consult together, and carry on, Two Actions brought to the Inferior Court, held in *Newport*, in *November* last, in Behalf of the Colony, on Mortgages, against *James Milward*, and others, for Lands in *Newport*, called Point-Lots.

H. Peckham
allowed L. 4
11 8.
 WHEREAS Mr. *Henry Peckham* exhibited unto this Assembly an Account, by him charged against the Colony, for repairing the Floor of the Court-House in *Newport*, providing Materials, &c. And the said Account being duly examined, *It is Voted and Resolved,* That the same be, and hereby is allowed; and that
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