Bucknell University
Charter
(As in effect July 1, 2001)

An Act

To establish the University at Lewisburg. Approved February 5th, 1846, (1846, P.L. pages 32 et seq.) and amended in accordance with the laws of Pennsylvania by the Court of the County of Union, May 20, 1882, May 21, 1887, February 20, 1888, August 14, 1895, November 28, 1908, August 16, 1926, December 16, 1929, October 19, 1953, February 10, 1959, and November 12, 1969; and further amended by a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees on November 8, 1986, November 17, 1990 and May 2, 1998, in accordance with the requirements and procedures specified in the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Laws of 1972 and 1988.

WHEREAS, The Baptists of Pennsylvania, as a denomination are not now engaged for the maintenance of any particular college or university in this state:

And Whereas, The chartering of a university, to be placed under their patronage, supervision and direction, would be a measure well adapted to call forth, from all parts of this commonwealth, concentrate, increase, and render effective in the cultivation of sound learning, the efforts of said denomination, and
thereby promote the general interest of science, literature and good morals; therefore,

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That there be and hereby is erected and established, at or near the borough of Lewisburg, in the county of Union, in this commonwealth, a university, to consist of a primary school and academy, a college, and such departments appropriate to a university, as the patrons and managers of said institution shall find themselves able to maintain, and that the name and constitution of the said university shall be, and they are as follows:

Article I.

Section 1. The said institution shall be, forever, called and known by the name of "Bucknell University."

Article II.

Section 1. The said university shall be under the management, direction, government and supervision of a Board of Trustees.

Article III.

Section 1. The trustees of said university shall consist of the following persons, to wit: James Moore, James Moore, Jr., Joseph Meixell, William H. Ludwig, Samuel Wolfe, Levi B. Christ, Henry Funk, Joel E. Bradley, Eugenia (Eugenio) Kincaid, Benjamin Bear, William Keene (Keen), William T. Bucknell, Thomas Watson (Watson), James Linnard, Lewis Vastine, Oliver Blackburn, Caleb Lee, Daniel L. Moore; which said trustees and their successors, to be elected as herein subsequently mentioned, shall be forever hereafter, and they are hereby created, established and declared to be a body politic and corporate, with perpetual succession, and with all the incidents of a corporation, in deed and in law, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, by the name, style and title of "Bucknell University"; by which name and title, said trustees and their successors, shall be able and capable in law and in equity, to take to themselves and their successors, for the use of said university, any estate in any messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, moneys or other effects, by gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, assurance, will, devise or bequest, of any person or persons whatsoever, and the same messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments and real estate to hold, and, together with the improvements thereon, exempt from taxation, and the same messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments and estates, real and personal, to grant, bargain, sell, convey, assure, demise, and to farm, let and place out on interest or otherwise dispose of, or invest, for the use of said university, in such a manner as to them, or at least a quorum of them, shall seem most beneficial to said institu-

*Names in parentheses show correct spelling.
tion; and to receive the rents, issues, profits, income and interest of the same, and to apply the same to the proper use of said university; and by the same name to sue and be sued, impale and be impaled in any courts of law or equity, and in all manner of suits and actions whatsoever; and generally by, and in the same name, to do and transact all the business touching or concerning the premises, or which shall be incidentally necessary thereto, as fully and effectually as any natural person, or body politic or corporate, has power to manage the concerns belonging to such person or body, to hold, enjoy and exercise all such powers, authorities and jurisdictions, as are customary in other universities, or in colleges within this commonwealth.

Section 2. Said trustees shall cause to be made, for their use, one common seal, with such devices and inscription thereon, as they shall think proper, and by and with it, all deeds, diplomas, certificates and acts of said corporation, shall pass and be authenticated; and said trustees may, at their pleasure, alter their seal or break it, and substitute a new one.

Section 3. A quorum of said trustees shall meet at Lewisburg within ten days from the date of this charter, to transact any business which the interest of the institution may then require. (More particular notice of said meeting shall be given by the trustee first named on the list.)

Section 4. There shall be a meeting of said trustees held as often as twice a year and at such particular times and place or places, as said trustees, or quorum of them, shall appoint; of which, after the first meeting, notice shall be given by a written communication, signed by the chairman or secretary of the board, and addressed to said trustees severally, at least ten days before the time of such intended meeting, and if at such meeting less than a quorum shall be present, the members present shall have power to adjourn to some other day, but if a quorum of said trustees meet at the appointed time, or at any time of adjournment, then the majority of votes of such quorum or board, shall be capable of doing and transacting all business and concerns of said university, not otherwise provided for by this act, and particularly, of making and enacting ordinances and bylaws for the government and instruction of said university; of adding within the limit prescribed by Article II, Section 1, to the number of trustees whose names are inserted in this charter; of electing trustees in the place and stead of those who shall decline serving, resign or die, or whose places become vacant from any other cause; of electing or appointing the president, professors, tutors and other teachers of said university; of agreeing with them for their salaries and stipends; of removing them for misconduct, breaches of the ordinances of the institution, or other sufficient causes; of appointing committees of their own body, to carry into effect all the resolutions of the
board; of appointing a chairman, secretary, treasurer and other officers necessary for managing the concerns of the corporation; of providing for the maintenance and observance of discipline in said university, and of prescribing and inflicting the penalties due to all violations of the rules, ordinances or regulations thereof, or to other misconduct committed by students or other persons thereat; and generally the majority of the voices of the board, or quorum of said trustees, at any stated or extra meeting, shall determine all matters and things (although not herein specified), which shall occasionally arise and be incidentally necessary to be determined by said trustees. Provided, The said laws, rules and ordinances, or any of them, be not repugnant to the laws and constitution of the United States of America, or to the laws and constitution of this commonwealth.

Section 5. As soon as said trustees shall have obtained, in the form of subscriptions believed to be valid, the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, they shall purchase a lot or farm, and proceed to erect thereon suitable buildings for the use and benefit of said university, to procure the requisite library apparatus, and specimens in natural history; and they shall exercise their own judgment and discretion in so doing, as likewise in the general management and disposition of the funds of said university; Provided, however, said trustees shall exact from their treasurer adequate secur-
and expected to attend the annual commencements of the university; they are to make themselves acquainted with the manner in which the rule of study and recitation is planned for the students, and by them executed, and particularly with the scholarship, conduct and character of students as are candidates for admission from a lower into a higher class or department of the university or for degrees, and the consent of the majority of the trustees present shall be necessary in order to a student's promotion, or receiving of a degree.

Section 8. Said trustees are to have access to the minutes of the official doings of the faculty; and they are likewise to take care to inform themselves respecting the methods of government and instruction adopted and practiced by the several teachers in the university.

Article IV.

Section 1. The president and professors for the time being shall constitute the faculty of the university and they together with the tutors and other teachers in their respective departments shall have the power of enforcing the rules and regulations adopted by the trustees for the government and instruction of the students; and the faculty with the counsel and consent of a quorum of the trustees shall have the power to grant and confirm unto students of the university, or unto others deemed worthy, such degrees in the liberal arts and sciences, or in certain branches thereof, as have been usually granted in other universities; to grant likewise to said graduates, diplomas under the common seal of the corporation, in order to authenticate and to perpetuate the memory of such graduation; and to grant, also, certificates to such students as have duly completed the course of studies prescribed in any subordinate department of the university.

Article V.

Section 1. No misnomer of the said corporation shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise or bequest, to or from the said corporation: Provided, The intent of the parties shall sufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, grant, will, or other writing, whereby, any estate or interest was intended to pass to or from said corporation.

Article VI.

Section 1. No religious sentiments are to be accounted a disability to hinder the election of an individual to any office among the faculty, trustees, administration or staff of the institution, or to debar persons from admittance as pupils, or in any manner to abridge their privileges or immunities as students, in any department of the university.

Section 2. The legislature reserves the right to alter or annul this charter, in case of any abuse of the privileges hereby granted.
Article VII

In the event of the sale, liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the corporation, whether voluntary, involuntary, or by operation of law, the Board of Trustees of the corporation shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, distribute, in accordance with federal and state laws, any remaining assets for public charitable purposes to such charitable or educational corporations, institutions or societies as the Board of Trustees of the corporation shall select, provided however, that such educational corporations, institutions or societies are exempt public charitable organizations under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and are described in Section 509(a)(1), (2), or (3) of the Code.

Should the corporation fail in its task under this Article VII of the Charter of Incorporation, the Court of Common Pleas in which the principal office of the corporation shall be located at the time of the sale, liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the corporation shall provide for the distribution of the net assets of the corporation consistent herewith.

During its existence, or upon the sale, liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the corporation, no portion of the assets of the corporation, including any surplus funds, shall inure to the benefit of any person, including any trustee or officer of the corporation or any enterprise organized for profit. The corporation shall have no authority to act and shall not act in contravention of its status of a Section 501(c)(3) public charity.*

* Though never re-enacted as a whole by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, the Charter as it herein appears comprises the original text as modified by all subsequent amendments thereto.