

The Fundamental Orders - 1639

For as much as it hath pleased Almighty God by the wise disposition of his divine providence so to order and dispose of things that we the Inhabitants and Residents of Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield are now cohabiting and dwelling in and upon the River of Connectecotte and the lands thereunto adjoining;

With the help of God we have been able to move from Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield to the River of Connectecotte.

and well knowing where a people are gathered together the word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people there should be an orderly and decent Government established according to God, to order and dispose of the affairs of the people at all seasons as occasion shall require;

For the sake of God we are going to set up a government to maintain peace and order.

do therefore associate and conjoin ourselves to be as one Public State or Commonwealth; and do for ourselves and our successors and such as shall be adjoined to us at any time hereafter,

We are going to unite as one commonwealth for now and future generations.

enter into Combination and Confederation together, to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess, as also, the discipline of the Churches, which according to the truth of the said Gospel is now practiced amongst us;

For the sake of God we come together to preserve Liberty.

as also in our civil affairs to be guided and governed according to such Laws, Rules, Orders and Decrees as shall be made, ordered, and decreed as followeth:

We will follow the laws that are now going to be stated.

The Fundamental Orders lists eleven laws for the colony. The laws talk about elections, taxes, and court cases. The document never mentions England or King James. It gave more men the right to vote and run for office.