Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

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 Connecticut and the lands thereunto
adjoining; 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; 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, 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; 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...