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## The Quinnipiac Jerusalem

Using the town plan to evoke in the settlers a sense of their religious obligations was a first step, but it was the work to follow that was to be critical. On June 4, 1639, all the free planters assembled at a large barn owned by Robert Newman to begin the process of formalizing the organization of the church and civil government that they had pledged to establish in their plantation covenant. Davenport took the lead in directing the meeting. Having opened the session with prayer and invoked the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Davenport propounded a series of questions that the settlers were asked to vote on. The first question was “whether the scriptures do hold forth a perfect rule for the direction and government of all men in all duties which they are to perform to God and men, as well as in the government of families and commonwealths as in matters of the church.” In a show of hands, the gathering unanimously agreed. After Robert Newman recorded and repeated the question, the vote was again taken and recorded. Next Davenport asked the settlers if they held themselves still bound by the agreement they had taken earlier, pledging to direct all their affairs by the rules of Scripture. Again, everyone, including some who had arrived since the plantation covenant had been sworn to, raised a hand to show assent. The third question was whether they had a “purpose, resolution, and desire that they may be admitted into church fellowship according to Christ as soon as God shall fit them thereunto.” All there “did express this to be their desire and purpose by holding up their hands twice, (*viz*) both at the proposal of it, and after, when these written words were read to them.”<sup>1</sup>

Davenport next asked if “they held themselves bound to establish such civil order as might best conduce to the securing of the purity and peace of the ordinances to themselves and to their posterity.” After everyone had