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## The End of the New Haven Colony

John Davenport had spent much of his life working to reform England and to bring it into a closer union with international Protestantism. Hope for success had perhaps never been as high as in the summer of 1658. Under the Protectorate, Oliver Cromwell had brought Congregationalists, moderate Presbyterians, and Calvinist Baptists together to form a loose form of state church. Commissions had been established to try the qualifications of candidates for church livings, and separate commissions had been established to eject unworthy clergy. Both groups gauged those whom they examined by a rough Calvinist orthodoxy. The Protectorate Parliaments had made efforts to define religious orthodoxy, and though they failed, it appeared that there was a chance for success in the future.

For proponents of the New England Way such as Davenport there was an additional reason to be hopeful. Cromwell had surrounded himself with Congregationalist advisers. Davenport's friends Hugh Peter, Thomas Goodwin, and William Hooke had direct access to the protector. During the summer of 1658 representatives of the nation's Congregational churches were invited to a meeting to be held at the Savoy Palace in late September. Responses were to be sent to Henry Scobell, a clerk to Cromwell's Council. William Hooke, appointed by Cromwell to be master of the Savoy, hosted the meeting. Among the delegates were Goodwin, Owen, Philip Nye, William Bridge, William Greenhill, and Joseph Caryl. The former New Englanders Hooke, Comfort Starr, and John Knowles, and probably Increase and Nathaniel Mather, were in attendance as well.

After a few weeks of deliberations the assembly agreed to the Declaration of Faith and Order. They endorsed the Westminster Assembly Confession of Faith. On matters of polity they adopted a Congregational system