



Community of Christ

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The Call to Build Community



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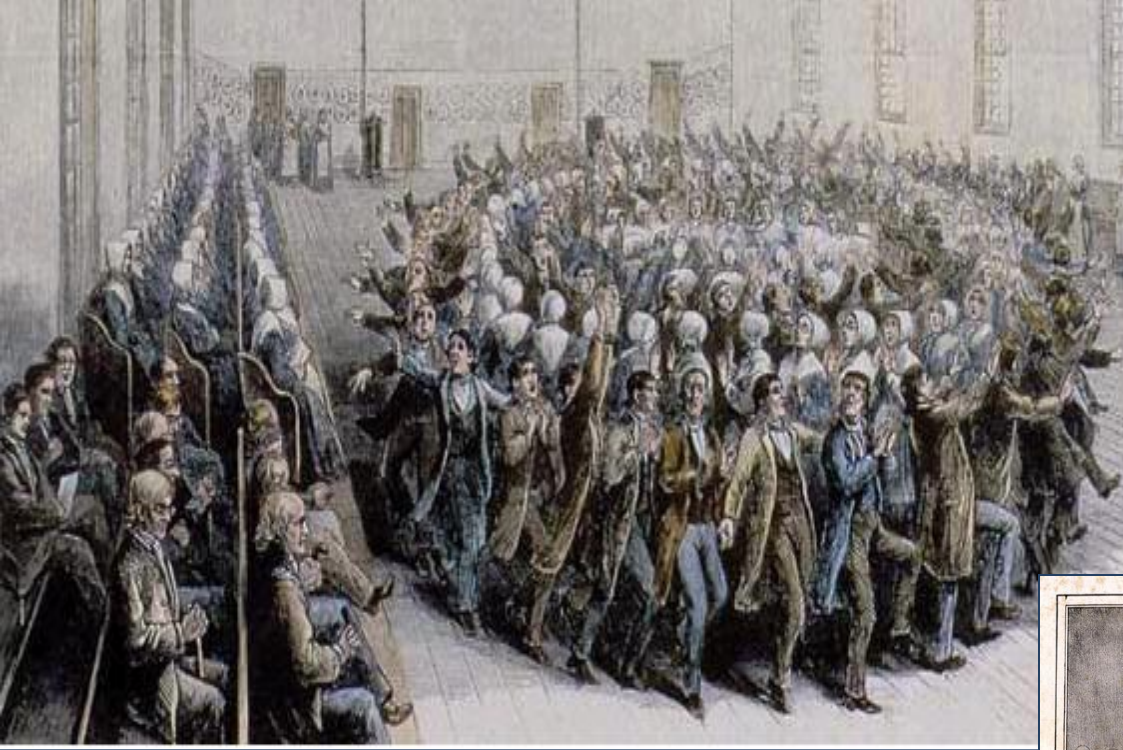


UTOPIAN COMMUNITIES BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

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You must remember the poor and needy, the widow and the fatherless; And deal out your bread to the hungry, And your clothes to the naked, Your natures will say, 'They may work and get these things for themselves.' But Christ said, 'Give to him that asketh and of him that would borrow thee, turn not thou away.

-Ann Lee, Founder of the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Coming (traditionally known as the Shakers)



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Acts, Chapter 2, Verses 44-45

All that believed were together, and all had things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.



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Our pretensions to follow the apostles in all their New Testament teachings required a community of goods: that as they established their order in the model church at Jerusalem we were bound to imitate their example.

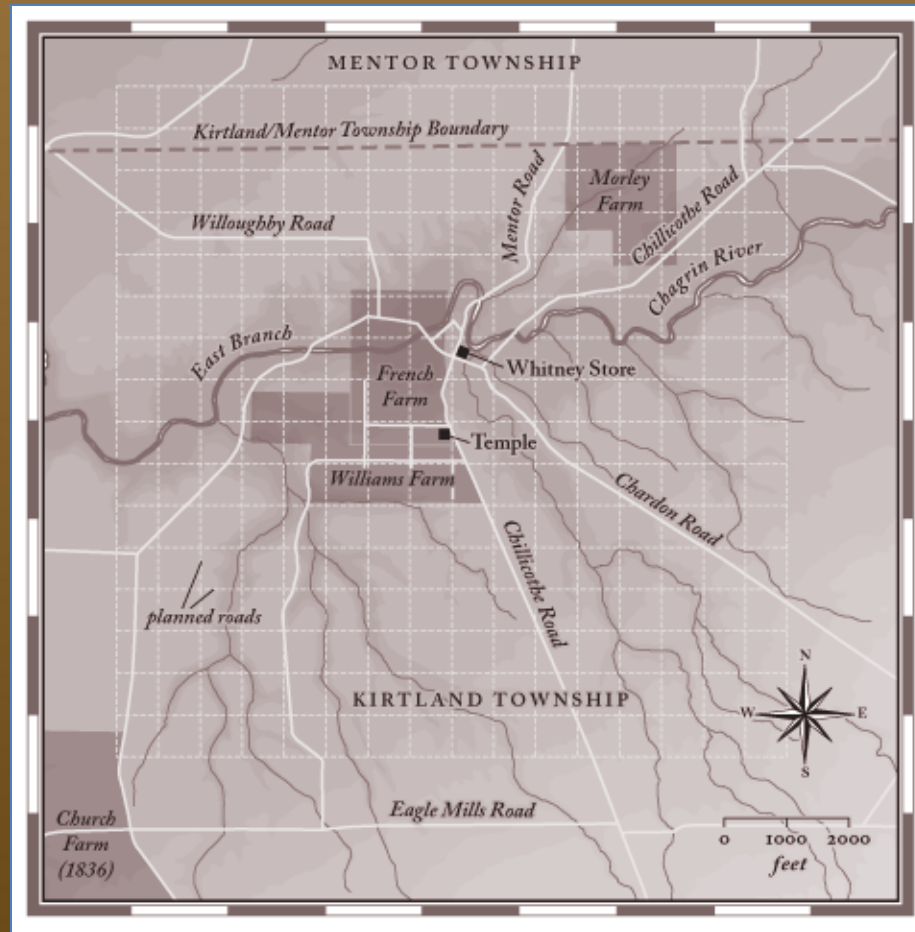
-Sidney Rigdon, 1830



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Morley Farm, Kirtland, Ohio



Center of Community Life, 1831. Map by John Hamer, 2008

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While I was in the room at “Father Morley’s” as we all called him, this same Heman Bassett came to me and took my watch out of my pocket and walked off as though it was his. I thought he would bring it back soon but was disappointed as he sold it. I asked him what he meant by selling my watch.

“Oh,” said he, “I thought it was all in the family.” I told him I did not like such family doing and I would not bear it.

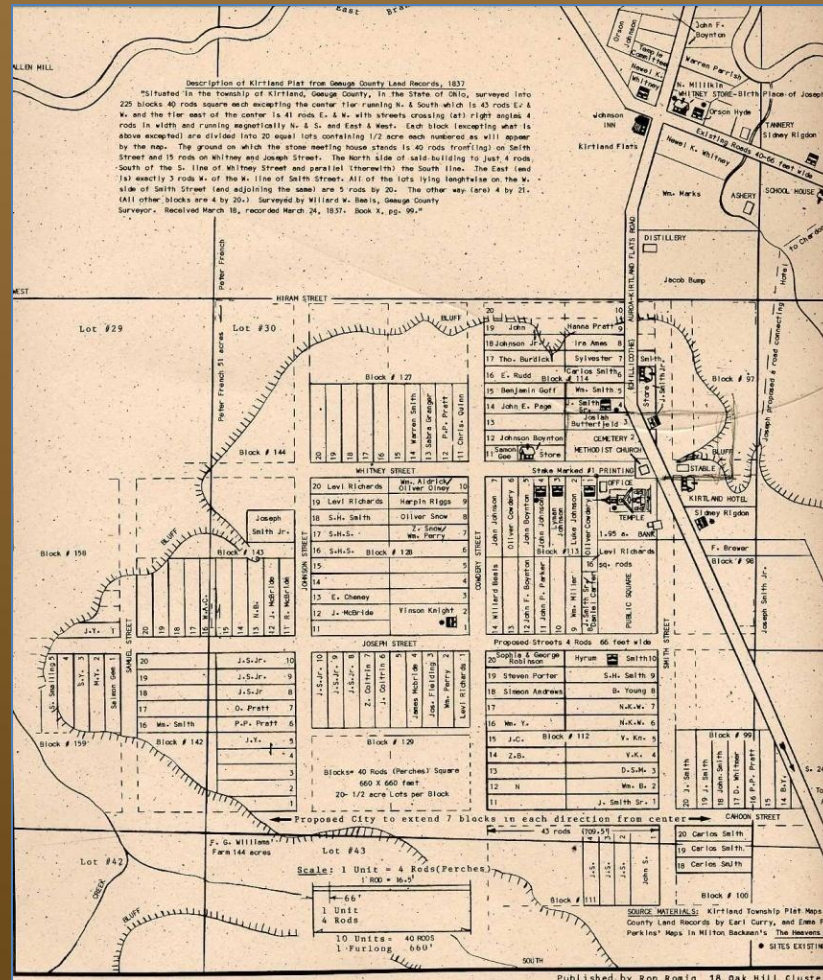


- Levi Hancock

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Oliver Cowdery's Bustling Community (1837)



1837 Kirtland map by Ron Romig
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Discussion Questions

- What is your reaction to this community design?
- How does this community design make you feel when you consider the relationship/division of church and state in today's society?
- Are there examples where this relationship works well in society? Are there examples where this relationship does not work well?



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