



November 11th, 2023
Ordinary Time

Dear Friends,

I do hope that these letters have been a helpful way to reflect on our Rule of Life. In this final letter, I want to emphasize that, while communal in nature, our Rule of Life can and does have invitations for each of us individually. There is wisdom, as we enter into another year, to give some intentional attention to those invitations. And so, as you work through this process of taking on our shared hopes for the kind of community it is important to ask the question: “what will be my personal way of living out the call to bring my whole life under the authority of Jesus - and my unique way of living out our shared hopes of hospitality, restoration and shalom?” (okay, we snuck two questions in there).

Essentially, the invitation is space to be attentive to the particular story God is writing in you. For some, it will mean doing some new things. For some, it will mean stop doing certain things. For all of us, it will mean seeing Jesus present in our everyday life. A personal Rule of Life is a good tool for this. And while this practice is a personal one, it is not one to be done in isolation. As you reflect and give words to this, process with a group, a close spiritual friend or a pastor.

Here are a few questions to help you form an individual rule:

1. How is God’s Spirit inviting me to deepen my commitment to be obedient to Jesus in these central areas of my life: money, sexuality and power?
2. Hospitality: how is the Trinity calling me to live in communal relationship with another this year, and how do I prioritize that calling into my routine of life?
3. Restoration: how do I sense the Gospel awakening my heart to life this year, and what spiritual practice should I pursue to respond to this awakening?
4. Shalom: how does the Kingdom of God invite me to God’s work of making Charlottesville new, and how am I to use my God-given desires and resources this year to join this work?

Please share your rule of life with a pastor, elder, small community leader or spiritual friend so we can encourage the work God is doing in you. If you do not find these questions helpful, our pastors or elders would love to have a conversation with you and help you consider what a rule of life might look like for you.

Peace to you this Saturday,



Rev. Bliss Spillar
Senior Pastor