



Rule of Life: 2020-21

Apprenticeship to Jesus (A2J)

A2J is an ecumenical fellowship of diverse Christians, who are called to a *Way of life* with Jesus, as his friends and partners in mission to love and serve the Church and further God's kingdom. We are united by our *Rule of Life*, which expresses our values and mission. We have been formed by the rich heritage of diverse Christian communities throughout history that balanced well the pursuit of intimacy with God and a life of service for the sake of others. We have learned from them the life-rhythms of *prayer, study, service and simplicity*.

Our Mission:

We are asking God to use us to help restore discipleship as way of life and to be used in small ways to bring renewal, reconciliation and healing to the Body of Christ, the Church.

Our Shared Values

1. Living a life of discipleship that is integrated into everyday life and fosters a deepening friendship with Jesus and commitment to grow in his likeness for the sake of others.
2. Working and praying towards reconciliation and unity in the body of Christ, knowing this is at the core of Jesus' heart and will release God's blessing and healing not only for the Church but for the world
3. Loving our neighbors and communities, believing mission thrives when it is expressed relationally and naturally where we live. There exists a great need for small, humble, and faithful communities that are spaces of hospitality and healing that can become signs of reconciliation and hope.

Our Shared Commitments

1. Share our lives, resources, and gifts with one another, as we work together to live as apprentices to Jesus and make apprentices to Jesus.
 - For some making apprentices might be their own children, while for others it could be college students or young adults
2. Prayerfully create a personal rule of life
3. Gather monthly together for fellowship and encouragement
4. Gather once a year for a Retreat together.
5. Be engaged in a local church and a smaller group for depth and intensity

Connecting

Within this fellowship, some live together in the same neighborhood, and still others live across the city. We welcome followers (apprentices) of Jesus at the different stages of their journey and from diverse traditions. This fellowship is open to all who are called to the values and mission. Some, but not all, within this fellowship have been called by God to make a formal commitment that can be renewed each year.

Our Rule of Life (Rule)

A *Rule of life (Rule)* is rooted in a commitment to embody the New Testament vocation of following Jesus in a specific place and time. It makes plain how a community is called to live and serve together. Throughout history, communities like the Benedictines and the Franciscans organized themselves around a set of practices that became their *Rule*.

Our *Rule* is an expression of our mission, values and commitments. It is built around a life of prayer, study, service, and simplicity in the context of everyday life. Living as apprentices of Jesus we are with him because of love, desiring to learn from him how to live the, '*life to the fullest,*' that he came to bring and to serve with him in his purposes for humanity and all of creation. Our *Rule* is corporately and prayerfully discerned and created. Each new year we reflect on it and make adjustments as God leads us.

1. **Prayer** – Learning to be with God throughout each day

- Daily – To commit to a daily prayer rhythm. Using common resources that unite us, such as Pray As You Go app, historic prayer books, praying the Psalms, A2J written prayers.
- Corporately – To pray together as we are able, both in person and through online gathering spaces.

2. **Study** – Learning to love God with our mind

- Monthly– work through A2J curriculum

3. **Service/Mission** – The offering of our unique gifts in love to God and one another

- Live as apprentices of Jesus and make apprentices of every type of person (Matt 28:18)
- Serving – The varied expressions of A2J & its partners locally & internationally as we are able
 - Local—In our local Churches, City projects like Hope Fest, AN ministries like Quellen
 - International—CJMI (Philippines), Hub in Trieb, Germany, Hub in Rome, Italy, Hub in Istanbul, Turkey, Red-Light district Kolkata, India, & Silk Road work
 - We want everyone to have the chance to serve overseas. We want to support one another through prayer and also financially if possible

4. **Simplicity** — We recognize that going deep with God and entering into the fullness of life and mission Jesus invites us into requires a counter-cultural way of life. We seek to prioritize time and energy for God and for others and resist the societal norms of consumerism, escapism, and compulsive busyness

- Personal *Rule of Life*—We prayerfully create space to hear from God in how He wants to work in us and through us for a specific season of life.