COME AND SEE…

WE ARE BECOMING A CHURCH THAT LOOKS AND ACTS LIKE JESUS.

By God’s grace …
We no longer worship and give supremacy to anything else that hurts or harms any child of God.
We are no longer oriented toward preserving institutions.
We are no longer centered on empire and establishment.
We are no longer focused on preserving insular communities.
We are no longer focused on preserving insular, small, gathered communities and congregations.
We are becoming a new and re-formed church.

THAT LOOKS AND ACTS LIKE JESUS…

WE ARE BECOMING A CHURCH

That centers the life and sanctifying power of Jesus, his love and his way of life.
That bends the knee of the church to the cross of Jesus, his love and his way of life.
That embraces the practice of small gathered communities.
That is centered in the life of Jesus and his way of life.
That experience and embrace the way of Jesus, and how it is lived elsewhere, our way of love and our way of life.
That witnesses to the vision and values of Jesus.

We'll know we're moving forward when we...

Center on Jesus Christ.
His teachings, his example, his Spirit, his way of love and his way of life are the key to having loving, liberating and life-giving relationships with God, our neighbors, all of creation, and ourselves.

Practice the selfless, self-giving way of the cross.
The way of “cruciform love” – Jesus’ act of unselfish, sacrificial, self-offering love, or losing one’s life in order to gain it — is our way to authentic life.

Unite around the practice of a rule of life in small gathered communities.
These kinds of groups — small circles of people who support each other in following Jesus with intention and accountability — are necessary for cultivating Christ-centered life.

Reclaim our Christian identity as a Spirit-driven, countercultural, underground movement.
We must break free of the church’s identification with domination systems, empire, establishment, privilege, and social and cultural traditions that have held us captive and get back in touch with the risk-taking, liberating ways of Jesus.

Live and bear bold witness to the vision and values of Jesus.
We point to the reality of the kingdom (the peaceable reign) of God, and we seek to embody the beloved community, where each person strives for and celebrates the dignity and flourishing of every beloved child of God as much as we do for ourselves.

COMING AND SEE…
WE ARE BECOMING A CHURCH
THAT LOOKS AND ACTS LIKE JESUS.
Living a Rule of Life

We are becoming a church that looks and acts like Jesus. Transformation and re-formation like this requires intention, wisdom, community and the Spirit. In other words, it takes a Rule of Life.

A Rule of Life is not just a list of rules. It’s an intentional commitment to a set of habits and practices that provide guidance, rhythm and inspiration for living a beautiful, holy life. Especially today, our identity as church doesn’t come from sharing the same space; we are church because we share an intentional commitment to a particular Jesus-centered way of life.

How to Discern and Live a Rule of Life

STEP 1: Breathe and Pray. Don’t get hung up on content and format. What matters is prayerfully setting an intentional commitment to orient your life toward God. Note: If you already have a Rule, recommit to that.

STEP 2: Set a Specific Intention. What ultimate goal guides your Rule? In this time of upheaval and possibility, Presiding Bishop Curry invites us to commit to becoming people and communities who look and act like Jesus. How and why would you like to be more like Jesus and to live a God-centered life?

STEP 3: Identify Habits and Practices. Focus on specific spiritual habits that both nourish and reflect your intention. What will you embrace? What will you resist? If it helps, revisit the Way of Love’s 7 practices for Jesus-centered life: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go and Rest.

STEP 4: Make a Plan. Decide when and how you will pursue various habits and practices. When could mean daily, weekly, monthly or annually. How includes considering your relationships with God, yourself, others and the earth. Be sure to also identify helpful tools and relationships.

STEP 5: Commit to Community. Form and covenant with a small gathered community where you are accountable to your Rule and support others living their own Rule, or where you share a common Rule.

COMING AND SEE: Becoming a Church that Looks and Acts Like Jesus