



The Episcopal Community

Marked as Christ's Own For Ever

The Rule of the Community

Members of The Episcopal Community seek to live into the Baptismal Covenant with increased dedication and vow to follow the Rule of the Community: to **grow, connect, support, and serve**. The Rule of the Community serves as a practical application of the Baptismal Covenant and as a general guide for each member to discern a personal Rule of Life. Each Rule of Life is a personal statement of how each member seeks to grow into intentional daily living with God and in the world.

Grow

Our primary goal is to deepen and strengthen our relationship with God. We seek to live intentionally and follow practices that lead to spiritual growth. We aim to observe regular time for prayer, study, reflection, and discernment; renewal through self-examination; ongoing personal and corporate worship; and strive for a balanced way of life.

Connect

We strive to nourish our relationships with our loved ones, congregations, the church, and the world. We do our best to offer welcoming and accepting hospitality in ever-widening circles. In our own ways and settings, we look for the good in others, try to be present for others, and endeavor to mend brokenness.

Support

We commit to support each other and assist in building up this Community. We are drawn to other women who feel a need for an authentic Christian community dedicated to nurturing inner strength and caring, trusting relationships. We link Episcopal women seeking to nurture their spiritual lives through caring community groups either online or locally. We pledge to sustain a welcoming place, provide sources for deepening and enriching spiritual life, and share our gifts for the benefit of the whole Community. We take this responsibility seriously so that we all may be mutually encouraged and strengthened by each other's faith and our community life.

Serve

We believe that active, intentional service to humanity and indeed all of Creation is witness to the Good News of God in Christ. In response to God's love, we aspire to use our talents to further God's purposes in the world through good works, acts of kindness and compassion, and sharing our resources.

Personal Rule of Life

A Rule of Life is a personal proposal to strive to live in relationship with God, put beliefs into action, and help support the Community and its members. It is both an individual plan and commitment to grow, connect, support and serve. With a Rule as a guide, each of us *journeys* toward realizing a rhythm and balance in life and bringing changes for the better in our daily lives, greater spiritual maturity, increased inner strength and personal resources to sustain us especially during spiritual "dry spells."

A Rule of Life is simply based on present spiritual practices and possible future practices to enrich personal growth and the lives of others. The focus is on being practical and realistic for each person and individual situation. This is the same whether creating a first Rule or subsequent Rules. Once on paper, a Rule is not a set of rigid regulations. In fact, regular checks and revisions help to keep Rules useful and to accommodate life changes. The prayers and experiences of other members will assist and strengthen each of us as we formulate our own Rule of Life. In living our Rules, we remember that "each day we begin again."