

WhyzMen · Rewire Retirement · A Charter Guide

Tending the Charter

The calendar, the triggers, the amendment convention, and the review pages that keep a Harvest Charter alive after Commissioning

Handed out at Session 15 · Kept at the back of your binder · Serves Tier 1 “What Comes Next” and Tier 3 “The Living Document” · Section numbers follow Charter v11

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds. —
Proverbs 27:23

On March 8 you sign a Charter. On March 9 it starts to age. Some of it will stay true for the rest of your life. Some of it was provisional from the day you wrote it, and you will not know which parts until you live a while. That is not a flaw in the Charter. It is what a living document does.

A vinedresser does not plant a vine and walk away, and he does not dig it up every week to check the roots. He walks the rows on a rhythm, prunes what has overgrown, ties up what has sagged, and pays closer attention after a storm. This guide is that rhythm for your Charter: a light, regular walk through the rows, and a heavier look when a storm comes through.

Three things to hold before you begin

- 1. The Charter serves you.** You do not serve the Charter. Nothing in this guide is an obligation, and missing a review is not failure. “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1).
- 2. Amend, never erase.** A constitution keeps its history. Ten years from now, the crossed-out lines will tell your grandchildren as much as the lines that stayed.
- 3. Alone first, then together.** Every review below begins with you and the page, and ends with someone else hearing what you found. A Charter tended alone tends to flatter the man who wrote it.

1 • The Calendar

Five rhythms, from a two-minute text to a three-hour morning. The one-page version is on the Charter's Tending page; this is the fuller version.

When	How long	With whom	Pages	The one question
Weekly	2 minutes	Your triad (text)	Your Rule (§3.1c), your First Steps Card	"Did my Rule hold this week?"
One month • First Fruits	One evening	Wives, the cohort	Experiment (§3.2), Rule (§3.1c), triad project (§3.3)	"Keep, change or drop?"
90 days	45 minutes alone, then 30 with your triad	Alone, then triad	The 90-Day Checkpoints in §3.1 and §3.2	"What is actually different?"
Six months	A triad half-day	Your triad	Readiness gauges, Tuesday page (§2.2), §3.3	"Which part am I now living?"
Every year • Jubilee Review	About three hours	Alone, then wife and triad	The whole Charter, start to finish	"Is this still true, or was it provisional?"

Put the dates in now

Before you leave Session 15, write these four dates in your calendar: First Fruits (the date on your invitation), 90 days from Commissioning, six months from Commissioning, and the first anniversary. A rhythm that is not on the calendar is a resolution.

First Fruits: _____ **90 days:** _____

Six months: _____ **Jubilee Review:** _____

2 • The Triggers

Some things call for a review whatever the calendar says. When one of these happens, the Charter needs a walk-through within the month.

The trigger	What it usually means
A lifequake: a health turn, the loss of a spouse or friend, a move, a new grandchild, a caregiving turn	The ground has shifted under a whole Part, not just a goal. Expect §1.0, §2.2 and §3.1 to need attention.

The trigger	What it usually means
A Readiness gauge drops two points	A domain has gone quiet without your noticing. Look for a subtraction (§3.0) that crept back.
An experiment fails twice	Not that you failed. The experiment taught you something. Write what it taught, then retire it or redesign it.
The Tuesday page starts to read like fiction	Either the vision was provisional, or the Rule is not carrying it. Ask which.
The mission line no longer makes you lean forward	Run the Galatians Test (§2.1) again. A mission can be true and still need new words.
The old question returns: “Is this still true, or was it provisional?”	Trust the question. It is usually asked for a reason.

When a lifequake hits

Bruce Feiler’s word for a life-altering event fits here, and so does William Bridges’ old rule: every transition begins with an ending. Do not rush to rewrite.

- 1. Tell your triad within a week.** Before you change a word. They are the first keepers of this document.
- 2. Wait thirty days before rewriting a Part.** In the first month, write only a dated note in the margin of §1.0, My Threshold: what is ending, and what deserves to be mourned.
- 3. Then walk the Charter with the Jubilee Review pages** (Section 6), even if the anniversary is months away. Amend what the storm changed. Keep what it did not.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. — 1 Peter 5:7

3 · The Amendment Convention

The Charter already gives you the rule: date and initial each change in the margin, and let the old line stay visible. Here is how to do it so the page stays readable for twenty years.

For a line or a sentence

- Draw **one** line through the old words. They must stay readable. Never use correction fluid, tape or a marker.
- Write the new words above or beside them, in a different color if you like. Red is the program's convention for the Jubilee Review.
- In the margin: the date, your initials, and a reason in **five words or fewer**.
- Add a line to the Amendment Log (Section 4).

What it looks like

§2.1 T-shirt version

Build men who build men.

Walk with men until they walk with others.

Margin: 3/8/28 DJ "Less building, more walking."

(Illustration only. Your first line stays readable; picture it struck through with a single line.)

For a whole section

When a section needs rewriting from the top, do not write over it. Write the new version on a fresh sheet headed with the section number and "Amended" plus the date (for example, "§2.2 · Amended March 8, 2028"), and file it directly behind the original. Write "See amendment, [date]" at the top of the old page. The original stays in the binder.

What never needs an amendment

The Ground. Galatians 2:20 does not get amended. You may rewrite your own words of it in §1.5 as your season changes, and you are encouraged to, but the thing it describes is not provisional.

4 · The Amendment Log

One line per change. Your triad initials the last column when they have heard about it. Ten years on, this page is a short history of how Christ has been reshaping a life.

Date	Section	What changed	Why	Triad

5 · The 90-Day Checkpoint

About 45 minutes alone, then 30 with your triad · Ninety days after Commissioning, and every 90 days in the first year if you find it useful

Your Charter already asks for a 90-day checkpoint under each goal (§3.1) and under your Rule (§3.2). This page gathers them in one place. Answer honestly and briefly. You are looking for what is actually different, not for perfect compliance.

My three goals (§3.1)	What is actually different after 90 days?	Keep · change · drop
Goal 1:		
Goal 2:		
Goal 3:		

My Rule (§3.1c)	Kept, lapsed, or changed?	What I will do about it
Daily		
Weekly		
Monthly		
Seasonal		

My experiment (§3.2): what did it teach me?

One thing I set down in §3.0 that has crept back

Shared with my triad on (date), and what they noticed

6 · The Six-Month Triad Half-Day

About three hours, together · Somewhere none of you lives, if you can: a cabin, a camp, a diner booth with a patient waitress

Three men, three Charters, one morning. The structure is simple, and it borrows two disciplines you already know: the Tuesday reading from Session 12 (read it all, no interruptions, one question afterward) and the Clearness Room from Session 11 (ask, don't fix).

Clock	Min	What happens
0:00	15	Coffee and food first. Open in prayer. Each man names one thing that happened since Commissioning that he did not see coming.
0:15	30	Alone, in silence: re-score your Readiness gauges (below). Circle any domain that moved two points or more, either way.
0:45	60	Each man reads his Tuesday page (§2.2) aloud, all of it, without stopping. The other two ask one question only: "Which part are you now living?" Then: "Which part reads like fiction now?" Twenty minutes each.
1:45	15	Break. Walk.
2:00	40	The five questions each man authorized in §3.3, asked by the other two. Listen before fixing.
2:40	20	Your triad project and your rhythm: still meeting? still the right project? Name the next date. Close in prayer for each man by name.

My Readiness gauges, re-scored

Copy your scores from Session 13 into the first column. Then score today, 1 to 10. A blank gauge is not a failing grade.

Domain	Session 13	Six months	One year
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

Domain	Session 13	Six months	One year
9.			
10.			

7 · The Jubilee Review

Once a year, on or near the anniversary of your Commissioning · About three hours alone, then a conversation with your wife and with your triad · Use a red pen

Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land ... it shall be a jubilee for you. — Leviticus 25:10

In Israel the Jubilee was not a performance review. It was a release: land returned, debts forgiven, people sent home. Your annual review should feel more like that than like an audit. You are looking for what to release as much as for what to strengthen.

The method

1. Find three quiet hours and a place you will not be interrupted. Bring the binder, a red pen, and this guide.
2. Read the whole Charter, start to finish, before you write anything. Read it the way you read Part One at Session 9: as one story, not as a checklist. Out loud is better, if you can.
3. Then work through the questions on the next pages, Part by Part. Amend in red as you go, using the convention in Section 3, and log each change.
4. Finish with the closing page. Then read it to your wife and to your triad within two weeks.

The Ground

Reread §1.5 and §1.6. Where did Christ actually have access to my week this year? Days, times, places.

My Galatians 2:20, rewritten for this year

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in _____, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Fill the blank with this year’s actual season: your body now, your calendar, your street, the diagnosis, the new grandchild.

Part One • Foundation

What did I learn about my own story this year that I did not know when I wrote §1.1?

Has my caring shifted again (§1.4)? What do I care about more, or less, than a year ago?

One new life lesson, if one was paid for this year (Appendix A): the lesson, the story, the cost, who needs it

Part Two • Vision

Read my T-shirt mission (§2.1) aloud. Does it still make me lean forward? Run the Galatians Test again.

Would this sentence still be true, and still be worth the next ten years, if Christ were not in me? If yes, rewrite it until the answer is no.

My Tuesday page (§2.2): which part am I now living, and which part reads like fiction?

My legacy sentence (§2.3): still true? “I hope _____ will carry _____.”

Part Three · Action

Subtractions (§3.0): what did I set down that has crept back? What is the next thing to set down?

Goals (§3.1)

Last year's goal	Done · continue · retire	What it taught me
1.		
2.		
3.		

Next year's goals, held to the Galatians 2:20 Alignment Check (§3.1b) again

The Charter calls this ten minutes and the single highest-yield page in the document. Answer in a phrase, not an essay.

The Test	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
Write the goal			
1 · Motive: ego, status or fear, or faithful stewardship?			
2 · Source: my grit, or God's grace?			
3 · Relational: who is served if it succeeds?			

The Test	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
4 • Open Hand: could I yield it tomorrow?			
5 • Fruit: what will this grow in me?			
6 • Witness: who sees Christ more clearly?			

What am I still holding with a closed fist?

My Rule (§3.1c) and its mechanics (§3.2): which line held all year? Which one needs a new cue or a new two-minute version?

My brotherhood (§3.3): are we still meeting? Are my five questions still the ones I would rather not be asked? Who needs to be added?

My learning (§3.4): what did I actually read, learn and finish? Name next year's one appendix or book, and one man I will walk with.

Part Four • Legacy

What did I hand forward this year: a story, a letter, a blessing spoken, a conversation recorded?

Reread my spiritual testament (§4.1). Is it still true? What would I add?

Who should receive one new story or letter before next year's review? Write the name.

Closing the review

This year, Christ in me ...

One sentence. The most important line on these pages.

What I am releasing this Jubilee

Read to my wife on

• Read to my triad on

• Next Jubilee Review on

8 · When the Triad Changes

Men move, get sick, care for a wife, and die. Your triad will change, probably sooner than you expect. The Charter does not stop being yours when that happens, but it does lose a keeper.

- **Three, never two.** Session 10's rule still holds: four is allowed, two is not. A pair collapses the first time one man's life changes. If you drop to two, invite a third within three months.
- **Where to look.** Another WhyzMen alumnus first; a man from a later cohort; then a man from your five who passes the four questions (available, willing, real chemistry, wives who could connect).
- **Hand him the Charter.** A new brother reads your Tuesday page and your §3.3 questions before your first meeting. Add his name in §3.3 as an amendment, dated and initialed.
- **If a brother dies.** Leave his signature on your witness line. Write the date beside it. He witnessed the Charter, and that does not end.

A closing word

Jesus did not say the branch must inspect itself. He said the Father is the gardener, and that he prunes every branch that bears fruit "so that it will be even more fruitful" (John 15:2). These reviews are a way of staying where the pruning can reach you. Some years you will cut a great deal. Some years you will mostly notice what has grown. Both are the harvest.

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. — Philippians 1:6

CUT ALONG THE LINE · KEEP IN THE BACK POCKET OF YOUR BINDER

TENDING THE CHARTER

Amended, never erased.

Weekly Triad text. “Did my Rule hold?”

1 month First Fruits. Keep, change or drop.

90 days Checkpoint, alone, then triad. “What is actually different?”

6 months Triad half-day. Gauges, Tuesday page. “Which part am I now living?”

Every year Jubilee Review. Whole Charter, red pen, §3.1b again.

Review now if: a lifequake · a gauge drops 2 · an experiment fails twice · the Tuesday page reads like fiction · the mission no longer makes you lean forward.

To amend: one line through, old words readable · new words beside · date, initials, a reason in five words · log it · tell your triad.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” — Galatians 5:1