

EfM Education For Ministry

St. Mary's, Napa is offering EFM to all Christians. St. Mary's is entering its 10th year of the EFM program and has graduated over 20 EFM participants. A minimum of 6 participants must be registered for each group to meet the requirements of the Beecken Center at the Sewanee Theological Seminary, which sponsors and manages this ministry. Therefore each year we search out new members, talking with friends and family, fellow church members and acquaintances. The information below is an overview of the program in the most basic terms. Sewanee also has an in-depth website explaining the program. For more in-depth information please go to: <http://efm.sewanee.edu/>

What is EfM?

EfM is a seminar group meeting weekly over the course of a nine-month academic year. Developed in 1975, by Sewanee School of Theology, it is now a worldwide program. Through **study, prayer, reflection, and fellowship** and guided by mentors, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom and their relationship to it. A four-year program, participants may choose to take a year (or years) off and reenter in a future.

Study

Participants are given weekly study assignments and resource guides. In the seminar members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions arising from the readings. The readings are designed to contribute to the wholeness of the experience of EfM. Though the readings can be lengthy, members can read and study as simply or deeply as they choose. There are no tests!

Reflection

By using the tools of theological reflection, participants learn to think theologically. By examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, participants can learn that their ministry is at hand wherever they turn. Each week a new topic, object or concept is examined and discussed. EfM is a sanctuary environment where everyone speaks freely and respectfully. Contributions and opinions are not shared outside of the group meeting.

Prayer

The seminar is supported by a life of prayer and regular worship. Participants contribute prayers for evening worship from all over the world.

Fellowship

One of the most important blessings of EfM is sharing the seminar with others. As the year or years progress deep understandings and friendships develop often between members with differing points of view. It's a wonderful way to get to know others in a way that is not common in today's busy and conflicted world.

Mentors

EfM groups are under the leadership of mentors who serve as guides and administrators, not educators. Mentors attend yearly training to enhance their EfM group leadership skills as well as to deepen their own understanding of their relationship to God and humanity.

The Course

Year One: The Hebrew Bible

Year Two: The New Testament

Year Three: Church History

Year Four: Theology, Ethics, and Interfaith Encounter

- Cost: \$375 per year, books and study materials are included (*scholarships may be available*)
- September through May
- Monday Evenings from 7:00-9:00PM
- Location: Currently the meetings are held by Zoom. Once the city of Napa allows, we will once again meet in the Guild Room at St. Mary's in Napa. The shelter-in-place and holding meetings by Zoom has opened up a new way for us to meet without having to drive. We are very open to continuing virtual groups as well as physical meetings.

Contact St. Mary's Napa EfM Mentors:

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