

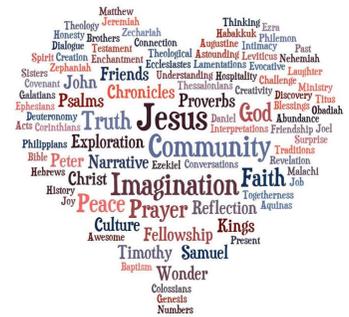


Education for Ministry (EfM) was developed more than 30 years ago by the School of Theology at Sewanee : University of the South. Today, more than 35,000 students have graduated from the EfM program in the United States and 80,000 worldwide.

EfM is based on the concept that all baptized Christians are called to ministry. This call is explicit in the service of confirmation, during which we ask God to “renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them.” Similarly, at the close of the Eucharist, we ask God to “send us out to do the work you have given us to do...” EfM helps lay persons understand and respond to this call to Christian service. Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM groups develop a new understanding of the fullness of God’s kingdom.

As a practical matter, the EfM program is broken up into four (4) one-year courses. A participant may take all four years of the program and graduate, or take a single year. The group meets weekly during the academic year and is comprised of six to ten participants and a trained mentor. Participants are given weekly assignments to study with the help of resource guides. Students typically spend two to four hours each week in study and preparation. In the weekly meetings, members share their insights and discoveries and discuss questions raised by the study materials.

Integral to the program is a structured methodology for “Theological Reflection (TR),” which helps students connect their faith to moments in their everyday lives. Says one EfM graduate, Jocelyn Cortese, from St. Matthew’s, Pacific Palisades: “In Theological Reflection (TR), the group takes a piece of scripture and reflects on it in such a way that it is very contemporary and meaningful. Even today, I will hear a piece of scripture at church, close my eyes and be transported back to a TR that we did in Carol’s living room years ago.”



Some of the benefits from taking EfM:

- A deeper understanding of your Christian faith:
 - The Bible
 - How church history and tradition affect our beliefs
- A vocabulary to express your faith - the ability to discuss it with others
- The ability to apply what you learn in your everyday life
- The opportunity to develop and define your own personal theology
- The opportunity to explore your personal call to ministry

To learn more about EfM, please contact me at 951-663-2421.

Pam Lillard +