

Interested in Joining Grace Norwood's Education for Ministry (EfM) Group in the Fall?

We are just about to complete our first year in which eight of us, six from Grace in Norwood and two from other Episcopal parishes, have enjoyed study, prayer, snacks, and camaraderie. We are men, women, senior wardens (three! from three parishes), as well as folks just about to be received into the Episcopal Church. We have lively discussions coming from our varied political, theological, and career perspectives.

Want a Taste of EFM: 7PM May 2 or May 16?

We will finish up our term this month and take a break over the summer. We meet on Monday nights at 7PM when we don't have Monday Night Vestry: May 2 and May 16. If you would like to come and sit in and experience what EFM is like, let me know a little ahead so we can prepare to have guests.

What is EFM

Every baptized person is called to ministry. During the Service of Confirmation 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."* The Education for Ministry (EfM) program gives you the background to carry out that covenant, and offers you an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.

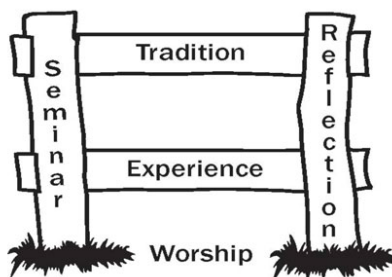
You MIGHT be an EfM participant if:

- you long to take a deeper look at what Scriptures really say, in context and then comparing and contrasting that understanding to our current culture.
- you are looking for a supportive, caring, interesting group of fellow seekers to share your Christian journey.
- if you are discerning your own vocation for service in Christian discipleship and would appreciate helpful insights.
- you would enjoy a method for orderly and creative theological reflection based on scripture, tradition, reason, and personal experience.
- you could benefit from reflections on your own life and relationships from a Christian perspective.
- if walking together seems better to you than walking alone.

The seminar group is the nucleus of the Education for Ministry program. A group of six to twelve participants and a trained mentor meet weekly over the course of a nine-month academic year. These meetings are usually from two and a half to three hours in length.

Through **study**, **prayer**, and **reflection**, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom illustrated by a two-rail fence. One rail is the Christian tradition. The other is the collective experience of the group's

members. The rails are linked by fence posts, which represent the seminar sessions where life and study meet. The fence is grounded in the soil of regular worship.



You are given weekly assignments to study with the help of resource guides. Plan to spend between two to four hours in study and preparation each week (*however, there are **no tests or papers***). In the seminars you will have an opportunity to share your insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions, which the study materials raise for them.

More important is the development of skills in **theological reflection**. The goal is to learn to think theologically. By examining our own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, we can learn what it means to be effective ministers in the world. In coming to terms with the notion that everything we do has potential for manifesting the love of Christ, we discover that our ministry is at hand wherever we turn.

The seminar is supported by a life of prayer and regular worship and everyone has a chance to lead our prayers that range from silent contemplation through music, the Evening Office of Compline, and the Eucharist.

The program encapsulates the core curriculum of a seminary and proceeds over a span of four years from September to June:

Year 1—Hebrew Scripture

Year 2—Christian Scripture

Year 3—Church History

Year 4—Theology, Ethics, & Interfaith Encounters

The fee for each year of EfM study is \$350. The required texts are provided, although you will need a Bible and may wish to obtain additional reading materials suggested in the bibliographies.

For further information, see EfM's website <http://efm.sewanee.edu/about-efm/about-efm>

Or email me, Father John Brockmann TSSF, the group's mentor, at jbrockma@udel.edu.

Deadline for enrolling is July 1.