

After four years, what will I have gained?

One of the guarantees from being part of EfM is that by completing the course, you will know much more about your Christian faith, from its foundational texts and the evolving nature of religious thought to how forces beyond the confines of belief have affected the development of the church. You will come to a deeper understanding of why and how we have come to where we are today. While the journey of faith is always ongoing, EfM will enrich your understanding of the nature of faith and give you knowledge to help you answer the questions of faith that arise in your life.

How do I enroll?

Enrollment in a group is handled by the group's mentor.

To locate a mentor and group, please contact the Synod Office:

- Telephone 780.439.7344 or
- E-mail churched@edmonton.anglican.ca

The cost of the program is \$350 per year, due at the time of registration. Students are also responsible for the cost of their textbooks. The registration deadlines are July 15 for a fall start, and Nov. 15 for a January start. Part of the fee may be refunded in the event of an early withdrawal. Bursary assistance may be available, depending on need and demand.

More detailed information about the program may be found at www.efmcanada.ca, the website of EfM Canada, which is based in Kelowna BC.



The Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

Do you want to learn more about your faith?

Do you want to be part of a group that engages in ongoing theological questioning?

Consider becoming part of EfM.

What is EfM?

EfM stands for Education for Ministry, a theological study program that goes beyond traditional bible study. Spread over a four-year period, the program covers much of the same academic material as a typical first year of seminary. Students study the Old Testament in Year One and the New Testament in Year Two. Year Three deals with the history and evolution of the Christian church, and Year Four involves Theology, Ethics, and Interfaith Relations.

EfM is recognized as one of the finest adult theological education courses available outside a university environment. It is strongly endorsed by Bishop Jane Alexander.

Where did EfM come from?

Originating at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, a theological College of the Episcopal Church of the USA, EfM is now offered worldwide. It was brought to Canada in 1977 through the combined efforts of the Diocese of Kootenay and the former Diocese of Cariboo. In 1985, the Diocese of Kootenay was invited to promote and manage the program for all of Canada. EfM began operating in the Diocese of Edmonton in 1991, with the first class graduating in 1996.

Over 150 people have completed the program through the Diocese of Edmonton. Graduates may be found throughout the Diocese, and in a variety of ministries within the church and beyond. Many of them have leadership roles within the Diocese. When EfM graduates and mentors were asked to stand to be recognized at a recent diocesan Synod, they comprised about one-third of those in attendance.

Is EfM only for Anglicans?

No — we encourage enrollment in EfM by people of all faiths.

A mix of backgrounds enriches students' learning experiences.

What does the program involve?

EfM is a four-year program, but ***students commit and enroll for only one year at a time.*** Participants meet in regular weekly sessions under the guidance of a trained mentor, usually from September to May. Groups can also begin in January. The program is also available on-line, a good option for students who are unable to connect to an in-person group.

Between each seminar session, students do assigned reading from the Bible and the texts for their year. The course materials draw on some of the best of contemporary scholarship. They are supported by a Reading and Reflection Guide that encourages a deeper examination and understanding of the subject matter and course materials.

At the program's heart is Theological Reflection, a disciplined way of attending to how we know and experience God. Most seminar meetings will include a significant amount of time for group "TR's", in which participants enter into dialogue, exploring individual and corporate experience in conversation with the wisdom of the Church's heritage. Other activities and special presentations may also happen.

What can I look forward to if I enroll in EfM?

The EfM program has many components that help students integrate their learning into their everyday lives. Apart from the learning, the discussing, and sometimes the struggling with various questions and issues, the greatest benefit of being part of EfM is that you are always with a group of people who are travelling along the same road as you, striving to learn more about their faith. This is the key to the unique and special nature of the EfM program – the fellowship that comes from being a part of an EfM group. EfM allows you to experience ongoing personal growth within the nurturing environment of a shared community of people looking to learn more about their faith.