



About EFM  
*Education for Ministry, Canada*

**WHAT is it?** Theological education for laity. Learning happens in small groups (6-10) facilitated by a mentor who is trained in the EFM Theological Reflection method and process.

**HOW does it work?** Groups meet weekly for 9 months a year. There are four years for the entire program. One must begin at year one. People may take a break between years and if they must move away from the group in which they have begun, they can transfer into a group in their new location or go into one of the Canadian online EFM groups.

**WHAT is covered?**

- Year One – Hebrew Scripture. Bible, and using Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures by John Collins.
- Year Two – New Testament/Apostolic Writings. Bible, and using Introduction to the New Testament by Mark Alan Powell.
- Year Three – Church History: Diarmid MacCullough’s Christianity, the First Three Thousand Years.
- Year Four – Thinking Theologically. Multiple Texts,
  - Theology: a very short introduction, by David F. Ford
  - Mysteries of Faith, by Mark McIntosh
  - The Christian Moral Life: Practices of Piety, by Timothy F. Sedgwick
  - My Neighbor’s Faith, by Jennifer Howe Peace, O. N. Rose, and Gregory Mobley

All years also take two time-outs to study a book together. In the past four years these Interlude books have included (not exhaustive):

- Fighting with the Bible: Why Scripture Divides us and How it Can Bring us Together by Donn Morgan
- Transformed Lives, by Cynthia S. W. Crysdale
- Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth, by Ilia Delio, Keith Douglass Warner and Pamela Wood
- Jesus and the Disinherited, by Howard Thurman.
- Globalization, Gender, and Peacebuilding: The Future of Interfaith Dialogue (Madeleva Lecture in Spirituality), by Kwok Pui-lan

Additionally, EFM Canada has a “Canadian content” package prepared on a specific Canadian concern, for example, The Marriage Canon, and Anglican & Lutheran Full Communion.

**WHAT DOES IT COST:** \$350 per year, and the cost of books.

**HOW can I learn more?** Inquiries should go to the Diocesan Coordinator who will connect with area mentors for follow-up. **Diocesan Coordinator:** Paula Porter Leggett, [2rev2pl@gmail.ca](mailto:2rev2pl@gmail.ca) 604-329-8701. There is also an EFM Canada website: [www.efmcanada.ca](http://www.efmcanada.ca)



## About EFM Mentors and Mentor Qualifications

EFM mentors serve as **guides** for the group process, especially the group task of Theological Reflection. Mentors

- lead theological reflection
- help to foster a learning atmosphere
- guide the group through ambiguity, confusion, conviction and doubt
- allow disagreement and refrain from "being the expert."

Mentors are **participants** and learners with the group. As such mentors

- share in the learning of the group by completing the lessons along with the students
- share in the worship component of the seminar, by leading worship and participating in it when others lead
- enter into the theological and lesson discussion

Mentors are also the **administrators** for the groups, responsible for recruiting and registration, group status reports and communicating with the diocesan coordinator. Mentors receive a monthly honorarium, and are expected to take training every year (usually organized by the diocese).

It is expected that mentors have some theological education or have taken the first two years of EFM. Exceptions are at the discretion of the Director of EFM Canada, usually in conversation with the diocesan bishop.

Once trained mentor is able to answer these questions in the affirmative:

- I can lead a group through theological reflection.
- I can foster an atmosphere where people feel free to express themselves.
- I can articulate my thoughts and feelings and honor the thoughts and feelings of others.
- I can guide a group in the midst of ambiguity, unanswered questions, serious doubts, and strong convictions.
- I can judge appropriate times to challenge ideas or behaviors of individuals and/or the group.
- I can allow people to disagree.
- I am familiar with the historical-critical approach to biblical interpretation.
- I have experienced serious religious study.
- I can refrain from being "the expert."
- I am willing to have my ideas challenged.
- I can support people through a crisis without having to "fix it" for them.

To learn more, please go to the EFM Canada website, [www.efmcanada.ca](http://www.efmcanada.ca) or contact the diocesan coordinator, the Rev'd Paula Porter Leggett, [2rev2pl@gmail.com](mailto:2rev2pl@gmail.com) or 604-329-8701