



EfM: Classic & EfM: Wide Angle Curriculum **Frequently Asked Questions**

About the EfM Curriculum

Why was the EfM program revised?

EfM is 50 years old! It has stood the test of time by always growing and changing to fit the needs of participants, new learning models, and a changing world. It has seen numerous iterations:

- 1970s-1980s: Mimeographed pages for participants written by Charles L. Winters and The School of Theology staff that evolved into the “Yellow books”
- 1988-1994: Parallel Guides known as the “White books” for each of the 4 years (3 cycles)
- 2002-2013: Common Lessons notebooks known as the “Red or Maroon Binders” filled with printed text for each program year and 4 years of different Common Lessons (3 cycles)
- 2013-2025: The Reading and Reflection Guide (RRG) published in a 4-year cycle supplemented by participant-purchased textbooks in whatever format they choose (3 cycles)
- 2025 and Beyond: The RRG has been transformed into delivery online through the learning platform Pathwright to be published in a 4-year cycle supplemented by participant-purchased textbooks in whatever format they choose

How much has EfM changed?

EfM is still the EfM we have come to love. There are still the same four years of study (taken one year at a time), our Core Practices, 6-12 people in a seminar group, and at its heart—the practice of theological reflection. EfM continues to build on its strengths and will still be the most engaging adult formation program for the Episcopal Church and beyond.

What is different?

There are new and different textbooks to accompany each of the four years that have been vetted by EfM’s academic advisors. Texts, in whatever form participants choose, continue

to be a primary source of study. What had been the RRG will be delivered online; by using the latest technology, the curriculum can go beyond the written word on a page to supplement the primary texts and be updated at any time.

Will a Bible still be needed?

Yes. Year 1 and Year 2 will be reading from the Bible as they always have. All participants should have a Bible handy for Theological Reflection. There is also an option to listen to a particular text in the Bible; much of Scripture comes from an oral tradition, so that adds another way to experience the text. *An Annotated Study Bible with the Apocrypha* will be needed. Translations can be *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV - Oxford or Harper Collins recommended) or the *Common English Bible* (CEB).

What does the curriculum now provide that it didn't before?

The RRG was designed as an individual study guide to address the reality that participants were graduating without a grasp of doing TR on their own; it was not meant to be a guide for group discussions. In the revision:

- *individual learning* using online content alongside textbooks in print, audio, or digital versions per participant choice; prompts and reflections are now offered for individual study
- *group learning* offers an invitation to try on suggested questions for discussion and a multiplicity of supplemental resources for theological reflection and further learning for each week's focus

What is EfM Classic?

The 50-year-old program of four years, one year at a time, is rebranded as "EfM: Classic." It is only offered, as it has always been, by accredited mentors. The four years are:

- Year 1: Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)
- Year 2: Christian Scriptures (New Testament)
- Year 3: Church History
- Year 4: Christian Ethics and Spirituality

What is EfM: Wide Angle?

A 1-year offering for those who wish to have a "taste of all four years in one year." Wide Angle can be offered as a stand-alone group or participants in Wide Angle can join a group of EfM: Classic. EfM: Wide Angle can only be offered by accredited mentors.

How do EfM: Classic and EfM Wide Angle work together in a seminar group?

EfM: Classic functions as it has for the past 50 years. Participants begin in Year 1 and cannot progress through the years without completing the prior year. In other words, participants must take the program in order of Year 1: Hebrew Scriptures, Year 2: Christian Scriptures, Year 3: Christian History, Year 4: Christian Ethics and Spirituality.

EfM: Wide Angle is a stand-alone offering that can be incorporated into a seminar group with participants in the *Classic* program. *Wide Angle* can be taken at any time, regardless of what years a participant might have taken in the *Classic* program. *Wide Angle* can be taken by someone with no experience in the *Classic* program. *Wide Angle* can be taken at any point within the *Classic program* (take X year(s) of *Classic*, break for a year of *Wide Angle*, return to *Classic*). *Wide Angle* can also be taken by EfM *Classic* graduates.

Classic and *Wide Angle* can be together in a seminar group of six to twelve participants. Together “5 voices” are represented in discussions of the assignments. Everyone experiences the 5 Core Practices together, including spiritual autobiographies and theological reflection.

Beth Cavey, Trainer in Residence for Mentor Empowerment, describes this as *Classic* having prerequisites, and *Wide Angle* having no prerequisite.

Are there still 4 yearly “themes” in a cycle?

Yes. The four themes, which participants cycle through in their four years of the program:

- The Journey with God (focused on the first person of the trinity)
- Following Jesus (focused on the second person of the trinity)
- Listening to the Spirit (focused on the third person of the trinity)
- Engaging the World (focused on creation and our neighbors)

What is the scope of the curriculum?

There are 27 weeks of individual study (Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, and *Wide Angle*) and 9 weeks of gathering experiences with a common topic for everyone.

What or Who is a Sojourner?

A person or group of individuals who will guide mentors and participants through a year-long theological reflection based on the year’s theme. For 2025-2026, the Spiritual Sojourners are the Sisters of the Community of St. Mary’s Southern Province located in Sewanee, Tennessee.

What are the “Gathering Experiences”?

Community Gathering Experiences are a rebranding of the RRG’s Interludes. The name reflects the fact that the materials on these weeks build community and deepen the year’s theme. These experiences can include an essay written by a Spiritual Sojourner, videos, a book for all to read, or another learning experience. Groups may wish to use these weeks to invite alumni, prospective participants, and other members of the greater community to get a taste of EfM. (Note: this is an invitation to consider these weeks as a recruiting tool but is not required.)

How do I represent the revision to non-Episcopalians?

This is a program offered by the School of Theology of the University of the South, which is an Episcopal seminary. It offers non-Episcopalians insight into how the Episcopal church has been formed and reformed. There is plenty of opportunity for non-Episcopalians to offer a counterpoint and alternative voice to discussions.

Does a mentor need to deliver this program as designed in the curriculum?

Yes. If a mentor wants to add alternative books and study/reflection opportunities outside of the 36-weeks they are welcome to do so. If they do not offer the materials in the EfM curriculum, then they are not delivering the program and mentor accreditation can be revoked.

How much time should participants expect to spend on their weekly “assignments” before coming to the seminar?

Each week the individual will “Engage” (read, watch, listen, focus). Each “Engage” has intentionally been designed for 2-5 hours. However, everyone reads and digests differently so this is a general timeframe.

EfM Curriculum Delivery

Why don’t we have the Reading and Reflection Guide anymore?

There are several considerations for moving the Reading and Reflection Guide to an online experience. Financially, EfM cannot continue to keep tuition costs from sharply increasing without reducing production costs. The cost of paper has skyrocketed and there is no warehouse to store hundreds of texts. The EfM staff of 8 is not equipped to maintain a shipping process to over 650 mentors and 4,000 participants. Moving online reduces EfM’s carbon footprint and improves our care of creation. Finally, an online delivery provides a more dynamic experience for mentors and participants by expanding the offerings beyond the printed page.

What if I want something printed to commemorate my time in EfM?

EfM has created a physical Journal that anyone can purchase that allows mentors and participants to gather their notes, thoughts, reflections, and mementos into one place.

What is the Foreword?

The Reading and Reflection Guide contained many great community life resources that were often ignored or unfound. The revision contains a Foreword that moves those relevant resources forward in the curriculum. Think of the Foreword as a path through ways to create a common understanding of EfM and seminar community before the first meeting. Participants will spend time discovering and reading these resources before the first week of EfM. Some groups have pre-sessions for new EfMers; some groups start the year with a retreat. A group may decide to explore the Foreword together during one of these times.

Once a group is registered and has access to Pathwright, mentors will want to urge participants to read the materials to orient themselves to EfM in the Foreword.

What is the weekly learning format?

The RRG used Read, Focus, Respond, and Practice. That experiential learning model has evolved into Engage, Respond, Reflect, and Resources.

- *Engage*: (participants do this on their own prior to the seminar meeting)
 - Setting the Stage (commentary)
 - Read / Watch / Listen (text book, essay, art, video, podcast, music, etc.)
 - Focus (questions to consider)
 - Journal: a prompt to engage you in applying your study to yourself, your group, your community
- *Respond*: Group Discussion based on individual reading (Four suggested questions are offered; the group may discern to use one or more, or they can create their own)
- *Reflect*: Group Theological Reflection (A suggestion, prompt, or process for a theological reflection. A mentor or group may choose something on their own also).
- *Resources*: extra material to enhance learning
- *Journal*: a reminder of the prompt as a means of reflecting on the whole weekly experience

Do mentors and participants need to have a journal?

No. However, the EfM Journal can be purchased on demand. Participants may choose whatever means or process (or none) for journaling. Journal reflections can be done online using the “Notes” function or electronically in whatever form an individual wants, in a different journal, or in the EfM Journal.

Will mentors have to read all the new textbooks before the program year begins?

No. The role of a mentor is to facilitate group discussion - to be the guide on the side, not the authority in the room. A mentor may choose to follow one of the year’s texts and read along with the group, but that is for personal growth and is not a requirement or prerequisite for mentoring. Mentors should already be encouraging participants to lead group discussions and reflections.

As all the Respond and Reflect prompts and suggestions are given to all participants (not just the mentor), what is the role of a mentor now?

The role of the EfM mentor has always been to model the core practices:

- Living in Community
- Regular Prayer and Worship
- Study of the Christian Tradition
- Theological Reflection
- Vocational Discernment

Mentors “hold the space” and create a safe and inclusive community. Mentors lead by example and then “pass along” responsibilities to others in the seminar group. In these ways mentors encourage participants to try on new skills and explore the gifts that each has been given by the Spirit.

EfM Program Specifics

What is the cost of tuition?

For 2025-26 the cost of the program is \$340 for tuition, plus \$10 copyright license and a 5% administration fee.

Do participants buy their own books?

Yes. Participants purchase their own materials depending on what is used for Year 1, 2, 3, 4, or Wide Angle. Books can be obtained in print, digital, or audio format. Costs are under \$100 per year.

Do mentors need to purchase books?

Mentors will receive books from EfM for all years (*Classic* and *Wide Angle* titles) that are represented in their group. When the whole group is registered, mentors will submit their book order and receive books for all the years represented by their group.

Do EfM Coordinators and EfM Trainers need to purchase books?

Coordinators will receive a complete set of all the books. These books are considered the property of the diocese to be used for promoting EfM. If a coordinator is also a mentor, they will receive another set of books for the years they have registered in their group, just like all other mentors. Coordinator sets are being mailed out over the next several weeks.

Trainers who have not been involved in the revision or in a pilot group will receive a complete set of the books. Those books will be mailed out over the next several weeks.

How does an individual register for EfM?

As in the past, mentors will invite participants to register through Pathwright. On July 15, mentors will have access to the entire path and the ability to invite participants to register to their specific EfM group cohort. As soon as the entire group is registered, the mentor can invite their participants into the path and all will then have access to the entire path.

Will mentors receive phone numbers of their participants?

If they provided their phone number when they registered, it will be part of the information provided to mentors.

Who receives graduation certificates?

For *EfM: Classic*, an individual who completes all four years of the program will receive a School of Theology / Sewanee graduation certificate.

For *EfM: Wide Angle*, an individual who completes this year will receive a completion certificate from EfM.

EfM and Pathwright

I have heard EfM is now going to be all online. What does that mean?

The curriculum will be delivered online through Pathwright. Mentors and participants will be expected to have a device to access the content.

What is Pathwright?

Pathwright is the online home of all digital courses created and curated by EfM, part of the School of Theology, at the University of the South. It is a learning management system that hosts educational programs that allows EfM to design an online syllabus with embedded links to print, audio, video, and other resources. The syllabus is divided into program years we call "paths" within which are weekly lessons. It's not unlike opening your Reading and Reflection Guide online with Engage, Respond, Reflect, Journal, and Resources as steps within each week's lesson. Mentors and participants see the exact same material each week.

How does Pathwright safeguard information?

<https://help.pathwright.com/en/articles/937928-common-questions-about-security-privacy-and-copyright>

Why Pathwright?

The reality of our world is that much of life is moving to an online space for education. EfM will continue to be on the leading edge of adult formation with this revision. Pathwright also makes it easier to update changes to the curriculum, such as fixing broken links and adding new resources. Pathwright allows EfM to be a nimble program for the 21st century.

How can I become more familiar with the ins and outs, capabilities and functions of Pathwright?

EfM mentors, participants, and trainers who are registered with EfM will have access to the Pathwright Library. In this digital library you will find countless resources for your use:

- *EfM: Orientation to Pathwright*: A video designed especially to help you become familiar with how Pathwright delivers content to you. Every coordinator, mentor, and participant should watch this video first.

- *EfM: Recruitment*: Tools to help mentors and coordinators promote EfM and plan events such as workshops and graduations with all the content and images you might need
- *EfM: Week by Week*: A collection of interview videos on EfM topics of interest to mentors
- *EfM Mentor Training and Discernment*: The online portion of mentor training that should be completed before attending an online or onsite mentor training for reaccreditation
- *EfM Mentor Enrollment (2025-2026)*: The path where mentors will enroll their groups to be registered
- *EfM: The Journey with God (2025-2026)*: The EfM Curriculum Path for this year that all EfM groups will be following

Can I use a smartphone or tablet instead of a laptop or computer to access Pathwright?

Yes. Pathwright is accessible on most digital devices. However, for some the text may be too small. It's about personal preference of digital devices.

How is Pathwright accessible to blind mentors and participants?

Pathwright is an online program, so however a participant accesses content online will work with Pathwright. Vision-impaired people usually either have a screen reader or a braille interpreter.

What do I do with a participant that simply does not have great internet access or a reliable device to access the content?

One workaround is to print out steps - they can be saved as a PDF which can be shared via email or printed on paper. It should be noted that if printing a step, there will be a lot of white space; check your printer settings before printing as you may be able to omit those pages that do not have text on them.

Can Pathwright be “searched” for a topic or word?

Yes. Use the magnifying glass at the top right corner of the Curriculum Path as you would for any website.

Can we still meet on-site, in person?

Yes! Each week, everyone will access the content in advance of the seminar gathering, just as it has been, only it will be through Pathwright. There is the capacity to print off pages of the material in pdf form or save it to a device, if necessary. However, EfM would like the program to be “greener” and leave as little impact on the environment as possible. No one will *need* to have a digital device for group discussions, theological reflection, or meeting onsite. Some may wish to have a device, but that is up to the group to decide. There will be

some videos used for the Community Gathering Experiences, so your group will need access to a monitor (TV or digital device) for those sessions. It is up to each group to determine how to incorporate technology into their covenants/norms.

What about my online group?

Online groups will still have the same capacities as they have had before.

What if I want to use my digital device during a seminar?

That will not be necessary, but an individual may have this desire if, for example, they use an e-reader and have made notes or highlights of the material and would like to access it. This is one of the topics that may want to be discussed and agreed upon when creating the group covenant during Week One.

I write in the margins and take notes in my RRG book. How will I be able to do this in Pathwright?

Pathwright has a function called “Notes.” You may create your own notes each week (and make them private for only your eyes). You may also share a Note with others in your cohort (seminar group). Mentors may also choose to use Notes to share a resource, prayer, or question with the cohort. These can be printed out if necessary. As stated previously, there will also be an EfM Journal if you choose that method of taking notes or journaling.

Can a mentor (or participant) pose a question in the week’s lesson in Pathwright?

Yes. At the end of each “section” on the “path” is a box where anyone in the cohort can pose a question or make a comment. There is also the capability of emailing the whole seminar group.

How will mentors (and participants) learn about the curriculum and how to use it?

- Mentors should subscribe to **Reflections** by sending an email to reflections+subscribe@sewanee.edu
- **EfM Substack** offers updates and news regularly <https://educationforministry.substack.com/>
- **EfM Week by Week** video recordings can now be found in the Library on Pathwright.
- Mentors and participants can sign up to take **EfM: Curriculum Revision Workshop**. The cost of the 4-hour workshop, led by an EfM Trainer is \$25 (non-refundable). The workshop will cover how the program is delivered through Pathwright as well as how participants and mentors will engage the curriculum on a personal as well as seminar level. Mentors will have access to their Curriculum Revision Workshop cohort path until December 15. The pdf presentations can be viewed in the path only, not by downloading. Mentors can use the mentor path to walk their participants through the revision. However, we strongly recommend anyone

(participants included) attend a workshop if they are wanting to know more about the revision in such detail.

Do all mentors and participants need to take the workshop?

No. But if anyone has a question or discomfort with this platform, it is highly recommended. If cost is a barrier, reach out to the [Trainer in Residence for Mentor Empowerment](#) about accommodations.

As a mentor, when can I learn how to implement this curriculum?

Starting in June 2025, all mentor training will be a Foundations Training so that all mentors (new and experienced) are introduced to the revision. Mentors needing a more detailed experience of the curriculum are encouraged to sign up for a Curriculum Workshop which started to be offered in March 2025

When can mentors register for the 2025-2026 curriculum year? On May 15, 2025

mentors may register themselves for the new year if they are up to date on their accredited mentor training. They will submit their necessary forms for themselves and their group. All registration kinks will be worked out with EfM staff.

When will a mentor have access to the full program year materials?

On July 15, mentors will have access to the entire path (Foreword and Weeks 1 through 36) and the ability to their invite participants to register.

When the entire group is registered (minimum of 6 participants to 12 maximum) the mentor will notify the EfM registrar staff through Pathwright. They can then submit their book order and receive books for all the years represented by their group.

When will a participant have access to the whole curriculum in Pathwright?

When the entire seminar group has registered, they will receive an invitation via email to join their seminar cohort and then will have access to the entire Curriculum (Foreword and Weeks 1 through 36).