

Welcome to EfM



The people involved with forming, leading, and administering the Education for Ministry program believe our relationship to God matters.

We believe this relationship is a means of living in a complex world with faith, hope, and love.

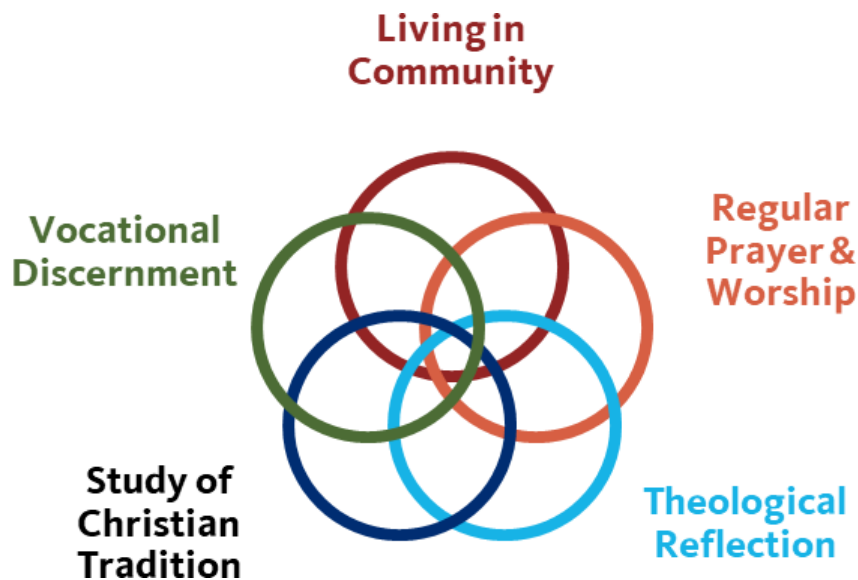
We believe in creating space for curiosity, community, and looking at life through the lens of a relationship with God.

We believe that the lens through which we deepen our relationship with God can be sharpened by specific practices. We call them EfM's Core Practices.

EfM's Core Practices

More and more, people need safe spaces to learn, grow, and wonder about God – especially if their views differ from others. But these places don't create themselves. EfM uses these practices to guide us in making small, trusted communities where authentic interaction can happen.

In each seminar, you'll experience community by praying, studying, worshiping, reflecting, and discovering our unique way of walking in the world through faith.



Living in Community

We value creating sacred space where people feel welcomed and safe. We practice:

Offering stories of our experiences. Listening with the ears of the heart.
Setting expectations for how group members seek understanding and explore together with respect and care.

Regular Prayer and Worship

We recognize the presence of God with us in every session and we explore ways to deepen our individual spirituality.

Group members typically share responsibility for leading worship.

We try different expressions of worship, such as poetry, music, and types of prayer.

Theological Reflection

Our conversations take on an added dimension in EfM's model of theological reflection.

Theological reflection brings the Christian tradition, our experiences, our opinions, and the various cultures that influence us into conversation, leading to ways to live our faith more fully. Theological reflection is a central practice of EfM.

Vocational Discernment

When EfM talks about vocation, it isn't so much about what a person does, but how a person lives with purpose.

Vocational discernment lies with the ideas of "Who am I becoming?" and "What is my next faithful step?"

Study of Christian Tradition

EfM materials root us in Christian scripture, history, theology, and ethics.
EfM is learner-driven.

We invite you to a Wide Angle reading and reflection plan; you decide what's relevant to your faith journey.

No test or papers are due. Ever.

When we embody the Core Practices of EfM, we create a community where discernment is both a series of "aha" moments and a gradual, evolving understanding.

Theological Reflection is the heart of EfM -- it is what makes EfM not just a Bible study. Using everyday experiences, we connect our heart and head. It is the bridge between the Bible and our lives. It is a technique that enables our faith to impact our lives. It is an intentional discipline -- we are putting things into conversation with God and others. Through the lens of faith, we see the movement of God in our lives, which leads us to grow and transform.

EfM participants gather together. People read and reflect on the Wide Angle assignments. We can explore the common themes throughout the faith journey. We experience the multiple voices of the spirit through each other's experiences.