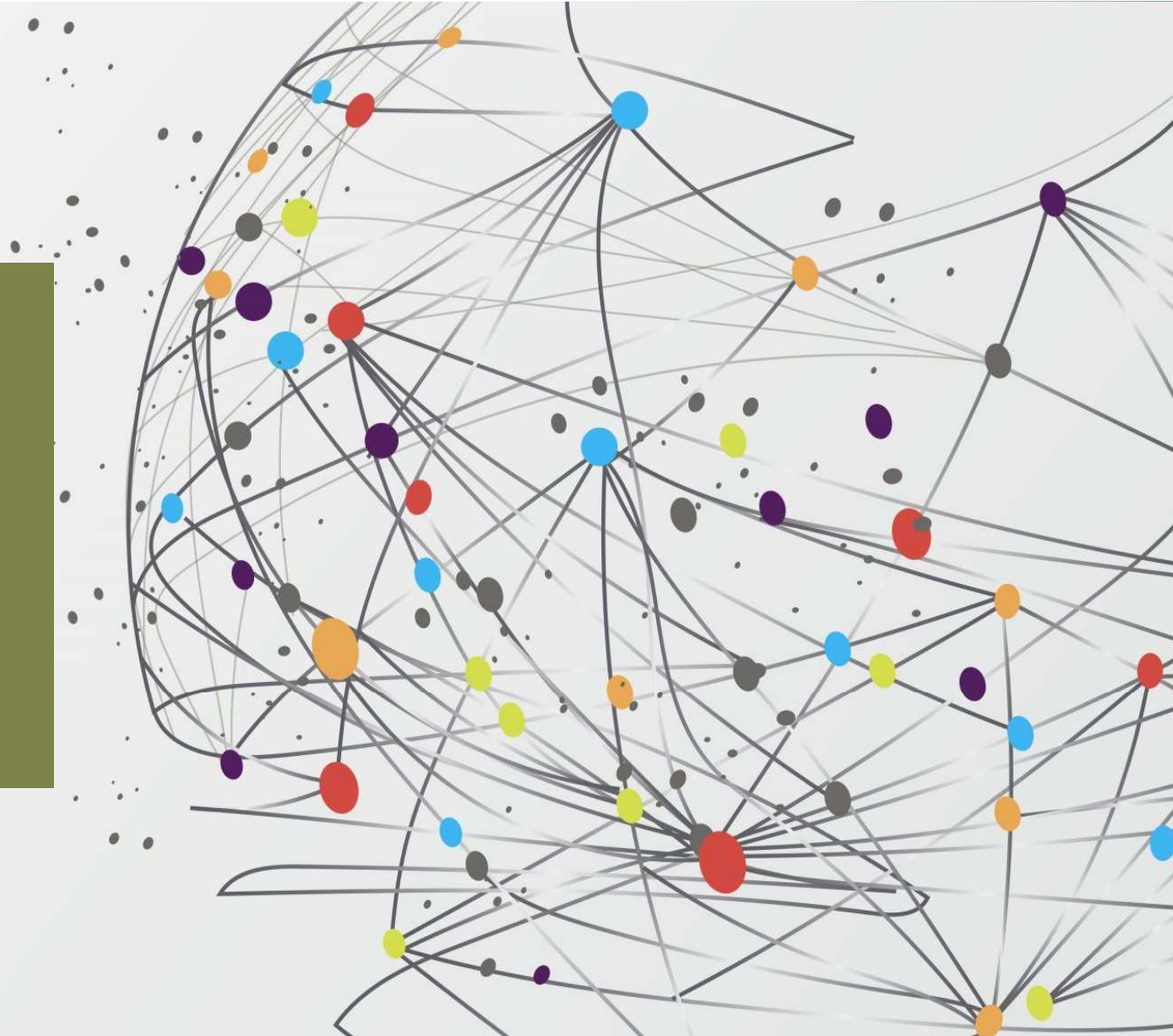


EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

*Prayerfully serving the
Los Angeles Diocese
since the mid 1980's*



WHAT IS EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY?

- EfM was started in 1975 as resource for lay members of the church to explore our faith through examining Hebrew Scriptures, Christian Scriptures, church history, and how to put our faith into action in our daily lives.
- In the challenging and often confusing world we live in, EfM provides its participants avenues in examining ones personal understanding and ways to deepen that faith so that we can be instruments of grace and justice in our parishes and communities.

THE HISTORY OF EFM

- Do you have questions about your faith? Most people do, and most find it challenging to get answers. Education for Ministry (EfM) was developed by the School of Theology (Episcopal) in Sewanee, Tennessee, to provide a mechanism for people to work through those questions. This four-year course of study provides the framework for the group to connect faith to their daily lives through reading and discussion.
- Meeting once a week in small groups with people from your parish and neighborhood or in online groups that may include participants from around the world, all led by mentors trained to facilitate the experience, you will begin to think theologically, reflect faithfully, and speak civilly when confronted by beliefs and principles in opposition to your own. And that's something we can all appreciate in today's world.

- By being an EfM participant, you will learn how to articulate your faith. You will learn how to shape your faith into action. You will become involved in ministries in your community and you will make a difference.
- Since its inception in 1975, more than 100,000 people have participated in this vital program. EfM groups meet regionally in nearly every diocese of The Episcopal Church, in six provinces of the Anglican Communion, and some in virtual classrooms with participants from across the globe. We would love to have you join us!
- Here in the Los Angeles Diocese we have over 20 different groups active in local parishes and in three online groups.

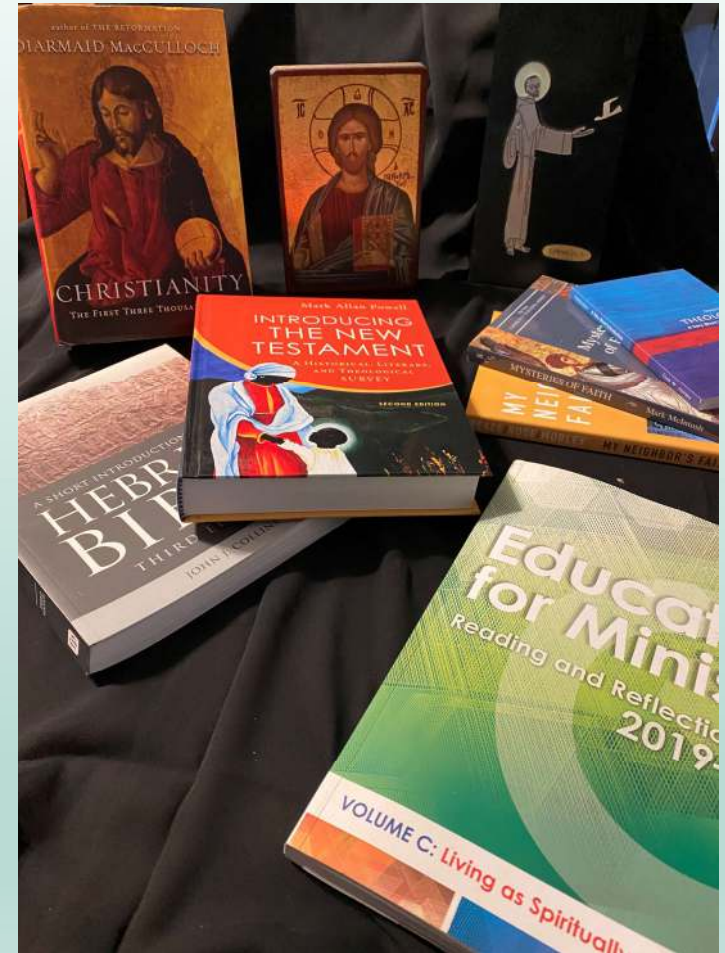
SEMINAR GROUPS

- Each EfM group is made up of between 6 -12 participants who meet weekly for 2 ½ - 3 hours. Groups meet traditionally from September through the end of May, a normal academic school year.
- Each group is led by a certified mentor/co-mentor that has been trained by the School of Theology, Sewanee. The role of a mentor/co-mentor in the group is to facilitate discussions, ask questions, and perform general administrative duties with the group. Mentors are NOT teachers but should be seen as enabler's rather than informers. The text books and Reading and Reflection Guide serve as the teacher.

- Participants are given weekly assignments to study with the help of the *EfM Reading and Reflection Guide*. Participants are responsible for setting their own learning goals. They spend between two and four hours in study and preparation each week. In the seminar participants are invited to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions the study materials raise for them. Through discussion and guided reflection, the seminars furnish an opportunity to deepen understanding of the reading materials.
- More important is the development of skills in theological reflection. The goal is to learn to think theologically. By examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, participants 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.

EFM CURRENTLY USES THE FOLLOWING TEXTBOOKS

- Year 1 *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* by John Collins and *The Hebrew Bible: Feminist & Intersectional Perspectives* edited by Gale Yee
- Year 2 *Introducing The New Testament* by Mark Alan Powell and *What Are Biblical Values* by John Collins
- Year 3 *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch
- Year 4 Uses four books
 - *Theology: A Very Short Introduction* by David F. Ford
 - *Mysteries of Faith* by Mark McIntosh
 - *The Christian Moral Life* by Timothy F. Sedgwick
 - *My Neighbor's Faith* edited by Jennifer Howe Peace, Or N. Rose, and Gregory Mobley



**Volume D
(2020-21)**

The Sabbath
by Abraham Joshua Heschel

Hospitable Planet
by Stephen A. Jurovics



INTERLUDE BOOKS

- Twice a year, usually around Advent and Lent, the seminar group takes a break from the group readings and focuses upon books that are for spiritual development and ways to put faith into action.

GROUP LIFE

- EfM groups are made up of between 6 -12 participants and are led by a certified mentor.
- A typical group meeting will start with prayer, led by a group member, then a short check in. Groups then will start the year off with spiritual autobiographies, working with different themes each year, and then move into theological reflection where participants learn to look deeper at life issues by thinking theologically, reflecting faithfully and learning how to speak civilly when confronted with circumstances and life issues that are different than your own. Groups then close with worship and prayers.
- EfM groups are NOT therapy sessions where people come to “be fixed”, but can be seen as people walking together, side by side, through life’s challenges.
- EfM is NOT a Bible Study where verses and stories are studied in-depth and picked over, but is experienced as a broad overview of Scripture and Christians history.
- EfM does NOT lead to ordination, but those seeking ordination have found the study useful in their lives.
- EfM does NOT seek to invalidate your faith, but rather is a place to question and examine things together in community and in ways you might never have imagined before.
- EfM DOES help participants through their 4 years in EfM to discern ones ministry and place in the Body of Christ. All members are ministers in the church and are part of the closely knit fabric of the church that is making the Kingdom of God manifest on earth, one person at a time.
- EfM DOES help participants understand that they are part of the active ministry of Christ in today’s world as agents of reconciliation, grace and justice.

CURRENT PARISHES WITH EFM GROUPS (SOME PARISHES HAVE MULTIPLE GROUPS)

- Altadena, St. Mark's
- Beverly Hills, All Saints
- Fullerton, St Andrews
- Hermosa Beach, St Cross
- Huntington Beach, St Wilfred of York
- Los Angeles, St James in the City
- Los Olivos, St Mark's of the Valley
- Oak Park, Church of the Epiphany
- Pasadena, All Saints
- Rancho Sta Margarita, St. John Chrysostom
- San Gabriel, Church of Our Saviour
- San Juan Capistrano, St Margaret's
- Santa Ana, Church of the Messiah
- Santa Barbara, All Saints by the Sea
- Santa Clarita, St Stephen's
- Santa Monica, St Augustine by the Sea
- Tustin, Church of the Messiah
- 3 Online groups

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN EFM

- If you are interested in joining EfM please contact me at:

Gary Leonard efmladiocese@gmail.com

and I can put you in contact with a group close to you.

If you would like to start a group in your parish, I can help with that too. A group needs to have a minimum of 6 people in order to form. A mentor would need to be trained by the School of Theology, Sewanee. At this present time, all trainings are done online through Zoom. That online training consists of 18 hours of contact time and a fee of 175.00. In person trainings will resume at the St Paul's Commons Retreat and Conference Center in Echo Park once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

2019 EFM GRADUATES



Gary Leonard

Los Angeles Diocese of the Episcopal Church

Diocesan Coordinator



904 W Huntington Dr. #15
Arcadia, CA 91007

Mobile: 626.644.9104

Email: gary.leonard63@gmail.com
<http://efm.sewanee.edu>