

118th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah

Report of the Education for Ministry Program (EfM)

Currently there are 4 active EfM groups in the Episcopal Diocese of Utah –

One group is held at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Ogden, UT. The mentors for this group are Bonnie Taylor and Steve Bauter.

The second group is held at St. Peter's in Clearfield, UT. The mentors for this group are Cherie Naccarato and John Dossett.

The third group is held online and in person at St. James in Midvale. The mentor for this group is Laura Orcutt.

The last group is held strictly online. The mentor for this group is Melody Oliphant.

Our mentors are trained and accredited every 12 – 18 months by an EfM trainer.

There are 22 total participants this year from all 4 EfM groups combined. 5 participants will graduate from the program this June. We hope to hold an EfM Graduation Service on June 3rd or 10th. More information to come. All are welcome to attend, celebrate with us, and learn more about the EfM program.

We would love to see the number of groups grow, and I will be happy to help parishes in the diocese get a group up and running at their church at their request. Feel free to contact me with any questions. (Melody Oliphant -merriemelody39@gmail.com or 801-380-2549 text or call.)

About the EfM Program --

From the University of the South's Education for Ministry's (EfM) webpage:
(<https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/>)

“Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice. Since its founding in 1975, this international program has assisted more than 120,000 participants in discovering and nurturing their call to Christian service. EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together.

The program invites participants into small, mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened. EfM seminar groups meet in local settings and online and provide a four-year curriculum that develops a theologically informed, reflective, and articulate laity.”

The 4 years' topics of study:

1st year - Old Testament, 2nd year - New Testament, 3rd year - Church History, 4th year - Theology/Ethics/Interfaith Encounter. *CEUs are available for those with 90% attendance.*

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Oliphant – EfM Coordinator for the Episcopal Diocese of Utah