



The Education for Ministry will resume at St. George's , Dayton on Thursday, September 8, 2011. Individuals from all the parishes in the Dayton Deanery are welcomed.

The seminar group is the nucleus of the Education for Ministry program. A group consists of six to twelve participants and a trained mentor who meet weekly over the course of a nine-month academic year. These meetings are usually from two and a half to three hours in length.

Through **study, prayer, and reflection**, Efm groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom. This process can be illustrated by a two-rail fence. One rail is the Christian tradition. The other is the collective experience of the group's members. The rails are linked by fence posts which represent the seminar sessions where life and study meet. The fence is grounded in the soil of regular worship which is vital to the life of the group.

Participants are given weekly assignments to study with the help of resource guides. Students are responsible for setting their own learning goals. They spend between two and four hours in study and preparation each week. In the seminars members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions which 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.

The seminar is supported by a life of prayer and regular worship. Efm groups are encouraged to develop a pattern of worship appropriate to their situations. Liturgical materials are furnished



## What People Say

For the last four years, EFM provided a unique opportunity to explore theological questions with a group of bright, open-minded students. The lessons and reflections spilled out of the classroom and became an integral part of my week. Outside of attending an on-campus seminary, I know of no better way to grow in knowledge of Biblical and church history while at the same time developing one's own spiritual identity. It was a fantastic experience that I will surely miss!

Peggy Barnes, Christ Church, Dayton

EFM invited me into a world of Narnia! Exploring depths of Christianity in my very psyche has enveloped me into greater charity. I'm not referring to money. I'm referring to EFM's jarring me to dispel 'indifference' with our fellow creatures.

Peg Cothern, St. George's, Dayton

Read Scripture and learn its Biblical background! Examine church history and how it influences the churches of today. Through lessons, seminar discussions and theological reflections travel in your faith journey to discover your spiritual gifts and further your lay ministry to others. All without tests, grades, or term papers! At the end of your EfM journey you'll have great reference materials, including bibliographies, irreplaceable memories of experiences with new and old friends, and, in my case, lots of growth in my faith. For me, it was a great and unique adventure!

Esther Wright, St. George's, Dayton

To learn more, please visit the EfM website: <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm>

To register and further information, contact

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