



**We currently have four openings for First Year beginning students.**

**Education for Ministry**, known as Efm, is a program of theological education-at-a-distance of the School of Theology of the University of the South. Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program. It covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology. Students meet regularly, usually once a week, in seminars under the guidance of trained mentors. The program grants a certificate at the completion of the four years and 18 Continuing Education Units for each year's work.

Every baptized person is called to ministry. The Education for Ministry (Efm) program provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. During the Service of Confirmation we ask God to "Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them." Efm offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.

The seminar group is the nucleus of the Education for Ministry program. A group consists of six to eleven students and a trained mentor meeting 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.

### **Study**

Students are given weekly lesson 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 students have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions which the study materials raise for them.

### **Reflection**

Through discussion and guided reflection, the seminars furnish an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the reading materials. More important is the development of skills in theological reflection. The goal is that students learn to think theologically. By examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, students can learn what it means to be effective ministers in the world. In coming to terms with the notion that everything we do has the potential for manifesting the love of Christ, we discover that our ministry is at hand wherever we turn.

## **Worship**

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 with the course materials.

## **Why EfM?**

Lay persons face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need the kind of theological education which supports their faith and which also trains them to express that faith in day-to-day events.

As the emphasis on lay ministry has grown, EfM has come to be an important part of that growth by providing a program that develops an informed and knowledgeable laity.

While the EfM program does not evaluate or recommend individuals for ordination, some dioceses use EfM as part of the preparation for ordination under rules which permit ordination to special ministries without a seminary diploma. We do not recommend EfM for this purpose unless it is used as part of a comprehensive program of preparation for ordination.

## **Our Call to be Ministers in the World**

Many people think that one must be ordained in order to be "a minister." The fact is that all baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. This Total Ministry is nothing less than the exercise of the church's vocation to continue the ministry of Jesus. He reconciled the world to God. We are called to incarnate that reconciliation in our own time and in our own place through worship, service to others, and by proclamation of his Word to all people.

The EfM program is preparation for the ministry to which we are called. It is that vocation for which we pray at the end of the Eucharist: "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

The preparation for ordination vows usually takes place at a residential seminary. There candidates develop their knowledge of Holy Scripture and theology and grow in the skills of preaching, leading worship, and administering the church's sacraments, as well as in their ability to be spiritual directors. The EfM program does not teach these skills.

Source: EfM Website -- <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm>

Contact **Barry McCrory (366-7815)** for more information about participating in EFM at Holy Apostles beginning in early September. The cost is \$350 per year ... **full and partial scholarships are available.** We currently meet on Thursdays from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Emmanuel Methodist Church on Kirby Road. Deadline for enrollment is August 10, 2010.