



Report to the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia
Education for Ministry in the Diocese of Virginia
Jane Dowrick - EfM Coordinator
efmvirginia@gmail.com
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Greetings on behalf of Education for Ministry participants and mentors around our Diocese! EfM is thriving, even as the pandemic continues to affect our lives. This report details work and progress since our last report to The Diocese in 2021.

Background of Education for Ministry: (EfM) is a program of theological study for laity. EfM helps individuals go deeper in their lay ministry. The EfM seminar group, along with the help of a trained mentor, and with awareness of God's presence when two or three are gathered, supports ministry through a created space of trust in which study, sharing, and theological reflection can flourish. Begun in 1975 at the University of the South – "Sewanee" – School of Theology, it has been a part of adult formation in the Diocese of Virginia for more than 30 years. The four-year program of study includes the Old and New Testaments, Church History, and Theology, Ethics, and Interfaith Relations. From the Sewanee EfM website: "Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM helps participants move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom as they better comprehend the connection between their faith and their lives" And, from an EfM participant: "EfM is not just learning about stuff. It is learning about self."

How Education for Ministry (EfM) provides adult Christian formation and supports one of the key priorities of The Diocese – to share the faith of Jesus with youth and others: EfM is one of the most effective and successful adult Christian formation programs in the Episcopal Church. It is designed to help adults who are seeking to live into their baptismal call to lay ministry. With the help of The Diocese as an EfM sponsoring organization, more than 1,000 individuals have graduated from EfM over the past 30+ years, under the mentorship of several hundred trained EfM mentors. On completion of all four years of EfM study and work in the seminar group, EfM graduates are equipped to go deeper and wider with their ministries and, in the case of many graduates, begin new ministries. And although EfM was not designed as preparation for ordained ministry, a number of EfM participants and graduates have done exactly that. EfM has been credited with providing a vital foundation for divinity studies leading to ordination. EfM graduates often serve in key leadership roles within their parish and beyond. For the year ending in June 2022 there were 30 groups led by 35 mentors, with over 200 individuals enrolled. A list of EfM groups in our Diocese is attached.

How EfM groups have adapted to meeting during the pandemic: During the past year, most EfM groups continued to meet virtually. As the year progressed, some groups chose to meet in person, following Diocesan Covid guidelines. Even as in-person meetings became possible, a number of groups continued to meet online. A factor favoring online meetings is the convenience for participants and mentors with long commutes to in-person meeting locations, and for meeting

while traveling for work or recreation. EfM mentors and participants have adapted well to online meeting platforms, such as Zoom, to continue their work together. While nothing will ever take the place of face-to-face meetings, the online gatherings have their advantages: focus on the faces of each participant, reduction of distractions that can occur when meeting in person; ability to record a meeting for people who are absent, to name a few examples. In-person EfM mentor training for 2020, 2021 and 2022 was cancelled, per direction from Sewanee, and we hope to have in-person training at Roslyn, August 3-5, 2023. That training will be scaled back in anticipation that many mentors and trainers will continue to prefer online mentor training. Virtual EfM mentor training offered by Sewanee has gone well, thus assuring that new and continuing EfM mentors can maintain their mentor accreditation in spite of the pandemic's limitations on in-person gatherings.

EfM in the Diocese of Virginia is Sustainable: Our Diocese is, and has been for many years, a “full sponsor” for EfM in our Diocese. This means that the Diocese of Virginia pays a fee to EfM/Sewanee each year (currently \$2750) so that all EfM participants in our diocese receive a \$100 discount on their EfM participant fees (\$325 is the discounted rate for 202223). Sewanee provides additional participant discounts to EfM groups of eight or more. EfM mentors serve as volunteers and receive a small monthly stipend (currently \$125) from Sewanee to cover expenses related to their EfM groups such as supplies for instruction, record-keeping and celebrations. Our Diocesan EfM Coordinator also serves as a volunteer, and receives a small annual stipend from Sewanee of around \$1,000 plus \$100 for each in-person mentor training event staffed by the Coordinator. Additionally, our EfM program in the Diocese of Virginia has generated a surplus of funds, accrued over time from annual EfM mentor training, when actual expenses exceeded income from mentor training fees. The surplus is tracked jointly by the Diocesan finance office and by the EfM Coordinator, and these funds will be deployed when in-person mentor training resumes.

EfM Growth: Our Diocese is always seeking to grow new groups, and to support more EfM mentors and graduates. Attached is a current list of the EfM groups supported by the Diocese. The EfM coordinator will explore with clergy and laity the feasibility of new EfM groups, especially in the three regions where there are no groups.

Support for EfM in The Diocese: We are blessed with a strong network that includes the Diocesan EfM coordinator, Diocesan staff, trained EfM mentors, and committed EfM participants. Together these are the backbone of EfM. We are grateful for the support from the Diocese of Virginia as a “full sponsor” diocese, through which EfM participants in our diocese enjoy a reduced enrollment fee. Support from the staff of the Diocese is also greatly appreciated. EfM Sewanee staff continue to do a wonderful job in maintaining the soundness of the EfM curriculum and program design. Jane Dowrick continues in her role as Diocesan EfM coordinator, having served in this role since Spring 2014, to support mentors, as well as individuals who are looking for EfM groups in which to enroll, and to grow the EfM program in The Diocese. Thanks be to God!

**ATTACHMENT to report to the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia
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EFM GROUPS IN THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

The Efm groups in the Diocese of Virginia are listed here by Diocesan Region. A complete list of churches by region is on the Diocese of Virginia website at <http://regions.thediocese.net/About-Regions/Map-of-Regions/>

Online-only Efm Groups: for information about enrollment and mentoring online-only groups, contact Cindy Hargis, Coordinator of online-only groups in the US, chargis@sewanee.edu. These online-only groups are identified by Sewanee as located in the Diocese of Virginia, however, individuals from any geographic location may enroll in any online-only group with space available, regardless of where the group mentor is geographically located: 1) #6981 Jim Papile, mentor, jimpapile@gmail.com (10 enrolled) 2) group #5401, Paul Bishop, Administrative Mentor pbishop4@gmail.com 703-244-3706 C; Lucy Chaplin, co-mentor, mooseski1@gmail.com 603-290-7358 C (8 enrolled)

Note: these group meets exclusively online, and will continue online post-pandemic restrictions; other groups below normally meet in-person, but are meeting online during pandemic restrictions.

ALEXANDRIA REGION

Meeting Place: Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Alexandria Group #6788 (6 enrolled)
Ridge Multop Baritone58@gmail.com 703-609-9559
Tom Hahn Tshahn1@aol.com 703-585-3933 C

Meeting Place: Grace Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria Group #4111 (6 enrolled)
Julia McClung julia.mcclung@yahoo.com 571-242-7080
Anne Boris awcboris@hotmail.com 703-941-3222 H

Meeting Place: Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria Group #6842 (7 enrolled)
Sudie McGahuey smmcgahuey@comcast.net 703-820-2363 H

Meeting Place: St. Luke's, 8009 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria #7067 (7 enrolled)
Beth Cavey caveyelizabeth@gmail.com 703-362-4331

ARLINGTON REGION

Meeting Place: St. Michael's Arlington, 1132 N. Ivanhoe St. Arlington Group #1910 (6 enrolled)
Beth Cavey caveyelizabeth@gmail.com, 703-362-4331

CHARLOTTESVILLE REGION

Meeting Place: St. Paul's Memorial, 1701 University Avenue, Charlottesville Group #5752 (6 enrolled)
Karen Mawyer Karenathome51@embarqmail.com, 434-906-9841 C

Meeting Place: St. Paul's, 851 Owensville Road, Ivy Group #4543 (6 enrolled)
Deborah Johnson "Debbie" djscott7@aol.com 434-823-5111 H, 434-825-2361 C, 434-979-6354 W
Charles Chabot CChabot@EmmanuelGreenwood.org 434-806-8232

CULPEPER REGION

Meeting Place: Trinity, 379 Gay Street, Washington, VA Group #3613 (6 Enrolled)
Rev. Elizabeth Keeler rector@trinwash.org 540-675-3716

FAIRFAX - NORTH FAIRFAX REGION

Meeting Place: Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, Vienna
Group 1: Joni Langevoort jlangevoort@gmail.com; Andy Pettigrew pettigrij@cox.net (5 enrolled)
Group 2: Sharon McGroder Sharon.mcgroder@gmail.com 571-524-5214 H Group #5793 (5 enrolled)
Dianne Stoddard dlstoddard@orrick.com 703-255-7046

FAIRFAX - SOUTH FAIRFAX REGION

Meeting Place: St. Alban's, 6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale Group #5648 (10 enrolled)
Kay Lusk malusk49@gmail.com, 703-850-2054 C
Steve Lusk efm@stalbandsva.org, 703-850-2216 C

Meeting Place: Falls Church Episcopal, 115 East Fairfax St., Falls Church Group #12599 (7 enrolled)
Mary Cushing mecu1010@aol.com 703-536-5165 (H), 703-772-7457 (C)

Meeting Place: St. Peter's in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Dr., Fairfax Station
Group 1: Pat Keithly keithlymusic@gmail.com 703-505-7433 Group #6984 (6 Enrolled)
Group 2: Rev. Susan Hartzell revsusanh@gmail.com, 703.503.9210 O, 703-309-9103 C Group #TBD (7 enrolled)

Meeting Place: St. John's, 5649 Mount Gilead Rd. Centreville VA Group # (8 enrolled)
Walt Cooner wcooner@yahoo.com 703-472-8097; 703-697-5345 (w)

FREDERICKSBURG REGION

Meeting Place: St. George's Episcopal Church, 905 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg Group #5271 (11 Enrolled)
Carol Lawson Avcmclawson@hotmail.com 540-846-5843 C
Norah Hooper mnshooper@gmail.com (540) 604-7959

Meeting Place: Trinity Episcopal Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg Group # (7 enrolled)
The Reverend Cynthia McKenna, Rector cynthia@trinity-gredericksburg 540-656-4646

NORTHERN NECK REGION

Meeting Place: Grace Episcopal Church, 305 S. Main Street, Kilmarnock Group # 6666 (10 enrolled)
Martha Gilbert mgilbert64@gmail.com 443-766-9547
Marcia Billups marcia.billups@gmail.com 804-699-0010

NORTHERN PIEDMONT REGION

Meeting Place: Emmanuel, 105 E. Washington Street, Middleburg Group #5085 (10 enrolled)
Linda Wine, lindabellwine@hotmail.com, 540-272-2893 C

Meeting Place: St. Matthews, 201 E. Frederick Dr., Sterling Group #6721 (8 enrolled)
Jane Garrett janeowl@gmail.com 571-665-5121 H
Sue Reier reiersk108@gmail.com 703-209-3540

POTOMAC REGION

Meeting Place: Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton Group #2457 (6 enrolled)
Denise McHugh deniselmchugh4@verizon.net 410-310-9867 C; John Egan jiegan3@netscape.net 703-973-5038

RICHMOND - CENTRAL RICHMOND REGION

Meeting Place: St. Andrew's, 236 Laurel Street, Richmond Group #12559
Paige Trivett paige.trivett74@gmail.com 804-456-7569

Meeting Place: St. James's, Richmond Group #6528 (1 enrolled)
Jane Dowrick efmvirginia@gmail.com, 804-334-0117 C

Meeting Place: St. Philip's, 2900 Hanes Avenue, Richmond Group #6175(2 enrolled)
Debora Johnson-Seabrook seabrook1800@comcast.net

Meeting Place: St. John's, 2401 E. Broad St., Richmond Group #6989 (8 enrolled)
David Curtis, dcurtis@saintjohnsrichmond.org 804-339-2252 C

RICHMOND - NORTH RICHMOND REGION

Meeting Place: Immanuel, Old Church, 3263 Old Church Rd, Mechanicsville Group #5759 (8 enrolled)
Lindsay Ryland clyland@aol.com, 804-338-2238 C

RICHMOND - WEST RICHMOND REGION – NO EFM GROUPS IN THIS REGION

SOUTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY REGION – NO EFM GROUPS IN THIS REGION

UPPER TIDEWATER REGION

Meeting Place: Abingdon Church 4645 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, White Marsh Group # 6625 (9 enrolled)
Jen Kimball, jensven1@gmail.com, 804-335-6592

WINCHESTER REGION – NO EFM GROUPS IN THIS REGION