



**Report to the 230th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia
Education for Ministry (EfM) in the Diocese of Virginia
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Greetings on behalf of Education for Ministry participants and mentors around our Diocese! EfM continues to offer an outstanding opportunity for adult Christian formation in our diocese. This report details work and progress since our last report to The Diocese in 2023.

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: "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."

Education for Ministry (EfM) provides adult Christian formation and supports one of the key priorities of The Diocese – to share the faith of Jesus: 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 in our diocese 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 2024 there were 26 EfM groups in The Diocese of Virginia led by 43 mentors, with over 200 individuals enrolled. A list of EfM groups in our Diocese is posted on the Diocesan website [at this link](#). The Diocese of Virginia website page for EfM is [at this link](#).

EfM groups in The Diocese meet on-site and on-line: During the pandemic, most EfM groups in our diocese quickly adapted to meeting on-line. As pandemic restrictions have lifted, many groups continue to meet on-line. This has been an advantage for participants who live long distances from EfM meeting places, have family who need them close by, or have travel or work schedules that make it difficult to be present for an on-site meeting.

EfM mentor training is conducted on-site and on-line: In-person EfM mentor training for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 was cancelled, per direction from EfM/Sewanee, because of the Covid pandemic. In lieu of on-site training, Sewanee provided on-line mentor training during those years. Going forward, EfM/Sewanee has selected several regional on-site training locations which EfM/Sewanee staff will oversee. Our Roslyn Center training site in Richmond has been selected as one of the regional sites because of our many successful trainings in past years at this location. Our Diocesan coordinator and the staff of EfM/Sewanee worked together to plan and deliver training on August 1-3, 2024 for 36 individuals seeking mentor accreditation. This group included eleven individuals who were seeking to become mentors for the first time. Virtual EfM mentor training has gone well and will continue to be offered by EfM/Sewanee, in addition to the on-site training events. Another on-site mentor training is planned for July 31-August 2, 2025 at Roslyn Retreat Center.

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. The cost of a sponsorship fee has been reduced beginning in 2023, from \$2750 to \$1750. Sponsorship by The Diocese affords a reduced tuition fee for all EfM participants in our diocese, as well as a reduced mentor accreditation training fee. 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 per month for nine months) 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 on-site 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, who plans to meet with the Diocesan staff to discuss how this surplus might be deployed.

EfM Growth: Our Diocese is always seeking to grow new groups, and to support more EfM mentors and graduates.

The current list of the EfM groups supported by the Diocese may be found [at this link](#). The EfM coordinator is ready and willing to explore with clergy and laity the feasibility of new EfM groups, especially in the three regions where there are no groups.

Support for EfM Mentors in the Diocese of Virginia: We have an amazing group of EfM mentors in the Diocese of Virginia who kept EfM going strong even through the several years when Covid restricted face-to-face gatherings. The EfM coordinator will be holding on-line meetings with mentors over the next few months, to share best practices ideas and to offer support for one another in our work to provide this vital program.

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 of maintaining the soundness of the EfM curriculum and program design. They will be rolling out new EfM programs in 2025, including programming in addition to the classic four-year EfM curriculum, such as “Wide Angle” EfM, through which individual may join an EfM group for just one year, using texts unique to their “wide angle” and joining in with the classic EfM participants for discussion and theological reflection. In July 2023 EfM/Sewanee welcomed a new director, Rev. Kevin Goodman, who succeeded Karen Meredith who retired in June 2023. Jane Dowrick continues in her role as Diocesan EfM coordinator, having served 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 the report to the 229th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia
Education for Ministry in the Diocese of Virginia**

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: 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 (8 enrolled)
Seward “Skip” Jones skipmarjy815@verizon.net 703-507-2543
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 (8 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

Meeting Place: St. James, 73 Culpeper St., Warrenton, VA Group #18125
Joanne Charles jcharles1331@gmail.com 757-373-6967

FAIRFAX - NORTH FAIRFAX REGION

Meeting Place: Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, Vienna #4576 (6 enrolled)
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; group year begins in January)
Moiria Skinner soccer22@me.com

Meeting Place: St. Barnabas', 4801 Ravensworth Road, Annandale Group#13089 (6 enrolled)
Beth Harper, bharper49@msn.com, 703-615-5673

Meeting Place: Falls Church Episcopal, 115 East Fairfax St., Falls Church Group #12599 (8 enrolled)
Mary Cushing mecu1010@aol.com 703-536-5165 (H), 703-772-7457

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 #12985 (7 enrolled)

Meeting Place: St. John's, 5649 Mount Gilead Rd. Centreville VA Group #13101 (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 #6874 (9 Enrolled)
Carol Lawson Avcmclawson@hotmail.com 540-846-5843
Martha Dougherty teachms@msn.com 540-847-3269

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@icloud.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; 423-948-9030 Cell
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 jjegan3@netscape.net 703-973-5038

RICHMOND - CENTRAL RICHMOND REGION

Meeting Place: St. James's, Richmond Group #6528 (10 enrolled)
Jane Dowrick efmvirginia@gmail.com, 804-334-0117 C

Meeting Place: St. Philip's, 2900 Hanes Avenue, Richmond Group #6175
(taking off for 2022/23 and will resume for 2023/24))
Debora Johnson-Seabrook seabrook1800@comcast.net

Meeting Place: St. John's, 2401 E. Broad St., Richmond Group #6989 (9 enrolled)
David Curtis, deaconjdc@gmail.com 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 # 6970 (9 enrolled)
Jen Kimball, jensven1@gmail.com, 804-335-6592

WINCHESTER REGION – NO EFM GROUPS IN THIS REGION