Report to the 232st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia
Education for Ministry (EfM) in the Diocese of Virginia
Marjy Jones - EfM Coordinator
EfM50VADio@gmail.com
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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 2025.

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, EfM has been a part of adult formation in the Diocese of Virginia for more than 30 years. EfM is a program in practical theology with a weekly rhythm based on the core practices of Engage, Respond, and Reflect. Curriculum revisions to EfM Classic and expanded course offerings introduced by EfM in 2025 and beyond provide opportunities for the laity to guide them to discern their spiritual gifts and calling to ministry.

Education for Ministry (EfM) provides adult Christian formation for discipleship - one of the key priorities of The Diocese: 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. Although EfM was not designed as preparation for ordained ministry, a few EfM participants and graduates have gone on to answer a call to ordained ministry. EfM graduates frequently serve in key leadership roles within their parish and beyond. As of October 9, 2026, there were 24 EfM groups in The Diocese of Virginia led by 37 mentors, with over 220 individuals participating. 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: Many groups in our Diocese meet on-line or employ a hybrid model, meeting in-person and online. 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 sponsored presentation: Last October, the Northern Virginia EfM sponsored a program at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Vienna, presented by Rev. Kevin Laskowski: "The Gospel of the Revolution". He discussed how clergy wrestled with loyalty, rebellion, and their faith in the years around the American Revolution--and what that might mean for Episcopalians today.

EfM mentor training is conducted on-site and on-line: EfM/Sewanee has selected several regional on-site training locations. In 2026, the Roslyn Center in Richmond served as one of the few regional training sites because of our many successful EfM mentor trainings in past years at this location. Our Diocesan coordinator and the staff of EfM/Sewanee work together to plan and deliver training. Our most recent training was held on July 30 – August 1 for 27 individuals seeking mentor accreditation. This group included several 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 the same timeframe in 2027 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 is currently $1750 per year. Sponsorship by The Diocese affords a reduced tuition fee for all EfM participants in our diocese. 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 $250 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 will work 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 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 have kept EfM going strong. The EfM coordinator assists mentors in the Diocese by helping connect individuals seeking an EfM group with mentors, facilitating the sharing of best practices, and serving as a resource of

information and support for mentors in their work to provide this vital program. The diocesan coordinator invites mentors to meet quarterly via zoom for fellowship and exchange of information.

Support for EfM in The Diocese: We are blessed with a strong network that includes the Diocesan EfM coordinator, our Diocesan Canon for Discipleship, Diocesan finance office staff, trained EfM mentors, and committed EfM participants. All these individuals 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. EfM/Sewanee staff continue to do a wonderful job of maintaining the soundness of the EfM curriculum and program design. EfM rolled a revised curriculum for Classic EfM in 2025 and introduced "Wide Angle". More programs called Reflections, a series of short courses are being introduced, as well as a Catechumenate course. Marjorie "Marjy" Jones was appointed by Bishop Stevenson as the EfM coordinator for the Diocese in September 2025. Thanks be to God for the continued success of this ministry!

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ATTACHMENT to the report to the 232nd 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 the diocesan coordinator at efm50diova@gmail.com: 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) Group #6981 Jim Papile, mentor, jimpapile@gmail.com
2) Group #5401 Paul Bishop, mentor, pbishop4@gmail.com 703-244-3706;
Lucy Chaplin, co-mentor, mooseski1@gmail.com 603-290-7358

Groups listed below may meet in-person only, or in-person and online (hybrid). Contact the mentor for meeting details.

Information obtained on October 9, 2026.

ALEXANDRIA REGION
Meeting Place: Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Alexandria Group #6788
Kenneth Knapp kennethrknapp@verizon.net
Nancy Knapp nvknapp@aol.com

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

CHARLOTTESVILLE REGION
Meeting Place: St. Paul's Memorial, 1701 University Avenue, Charlottesville Group #5752
Karen Mawyer ksmawyer@gmail.com, 434-906-9841

Meeting Place: St. Paul's, 851 Owensville Road, Ivy Group #4543
Deborah Johnson "Debbie" djscott7@aol.com 434-825-2361
Charles Chabot CChabot@EmmanuelGreenwood.org 434-806-8232

Meeting Place: Online Groups, sponsored by St. Paul's, 851 Owensville Road, Ivy Group #22521
Deborah Johnson "Debbie" djscott7@aol.com 434-825-2361
Charles Chabot CChabot@EmmanuelGreenwood.org 434-806-8232

Mentors Only Group: Online
Beth Cavey caveyelizabeth@gmail.com, 703-362-4331

CULPEPER REGION
Meeting Place: Trinity, 379 Gay Street, Washington, VA Group #3613
Dana Adamson dsadamson4400@gmail.com

Meeting Place: St. James, 73 Culpeper St., Warrenton, VA Group #18125
Constance Chintall. cmchintall@gmail.com
Ruth Fugee. Ruth.fugee@gmail.com

FAIRFAX - NORTH FAIRFAX REGION
Meeting Place: Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, Vienna Group #4576
Group 1: Joni Langevoort jlangevoort@gmail.com; 703-967-0990
Group 2: Dianne Stoddard dlstoddard117@gmail.com 703-255-7046 Group #5793

FAIRFAX - SOUTH FAIRFAX REGION
Meeting Place: St. Alban's, 6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale Group #5648 (Group year begins in Jan)
Moira Skinner soccer22@me.com

Meeting Place: St. Barnabas', 4801 Ravensworth Road, Annandale Group #13089
Beth Harper bharper49@msn.com, 703-615-5673
Len LeRoy lwleroy@verizon.net 703-389-3773

Meeting Place: Falls Church Episcopal, 115 East Fairfax St., Falls Church Group #12599
Mary Cushing mecu1010@aol.com 703-772-7457
Brian Kettler. bkettler@gmail.com

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
Group 2: Chuck Link cdlink83@gmail.com 703-431-9640 Group #12985 (Group starts in Jan)
Leslie Martin. Lemartin17@gmail.com

Meeting Place: St. John's, 5649 Mount Gilead Rd. Centreville VA Group #13101
Walt Cooner wcooner@yahoo.com 703-472-8097

FREDERICKSBURG REGION
Meeting Place: St. George's Episcopal Church, 905 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg Group #6874
Carol Lawson Avcmlawson@hotmail.com 540-846-5843

Meeting Place: Trinity Episcopal Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg Group #22490
Laurel Loch laurel.loch@stgeorgesepiscopal.org 703-785-4185

NORTHERN NECK REGION
Meeting Place: Grace Episcopal Church, 305 S. Main Street, Kilmarnock Group # 6666
Marcia Billups marcia.billups@gmail.com 804-699-0010

NORTHERN PIEDMONT REGION
Meeting Place: St. Matthews, 201 E. Frederick Dr., Sterling Group #6721
Jane Garrett janeowl@gmail.com 423-948-9030
Sue Reier reiersk108@gmail.com 703-209-3540

POTOMAC REGION
Meeting Places: St. Luke's, 8009 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria & St. Andrew's, 5890 Main Street, Mt Jackson #7067 (Group starts in Jan)
Seward "Skip" Jones skipnmarjy815@verizon.net 703-507-2543
Cathleen Lewis Cathleen.lewis@gmail.com 703-785-8859

Meeting Place: Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton Group #2457
Denise McHugh deniselmchugh4@verizon.net 410-310-9867
John Egan jjegan3@netscape.net 703-973-5038

RICHMOND - CENTRAL RICHMOND REGION
Meeting Place: St. James's, Richmond Group #6528
Billy Baxter wbaxterii@yahoo.com 804-317-7318

Meeting Place: St. Paul's, Richmond Group #21452
Jeanne LeFever sjlefever311@gmail.com 804-358-7360
Edie Patterson edithpatterson1@mac.com 434-242-4571

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

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

SOUTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY REGION
Meeting Places: St. Luke's, 8009 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria & St. Andrew's, 5890 Main Street, Mt Jackson #7067 (Group starts in Jan)
Seward "Skip" Jones skipnmarjy815@verizon.net 703-507-2543
Cathleen Lewis Cathleen.lewis@gmail.com 703-785-8859

UPPER TIDEWATER REGION – NO EFM GROUPS IN THIS REGION

NORTHERN SHENANOAH (WINCHESTER) REGION – NO EFM GROUPS IN THIS REGION