

Basic/In-service Mentor Training

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of mentor training is for participants to discern whether they have the desire and skills to be a mentor for the Education for Ministry program, and to provide ongoing training and support for experienced mentors with an EfM group. The event provides an opportunity for an EfM trainer to evaluate the skills of each trainee and to accredit those who qualify. Accreditation is not automatic.

II. PERSONS WHO MAY ATTEND

1. Anyone interested in becoming an EfM mentor.
2. An EfM mentor who has attended mentor training once and needs to update his or her accreditation.
3. An experienced EfM mentor who wishes to update his or her skills and information.
4. An EfM mentor whose accreditation is out of date.
5. A person who wishes to replace a mentor who is leaving a group and needs accreditation.
6. Someone who wants more information about the EfM program and training, but may not be ready or willing to mentor yet. You may attend “for information only.”

III. THE ROLE OF THE MENTOR

1. To facilitate and guide the seminar group in all aspects of the program.
2. To be the administrator of the group for the School of Theology Programs Center.

IV. SOME CRITERIA FOR PERSONS SEEKING TO BECOME AN EfM MENTOR

1. A desire to be a companion/guide to women and men as they engage in an intensive theological education program.
2. An ability to articulate one’s thoughts and feelings, show understanding of the thoughts and feelings of others, respond effectively to conflict and group dynamics, and be a facilitator rather than a teacher.
3. Maturity in a life of faith, comfort with the diversity of our rich Christian tradition, and familiarity with the study of biblical criticism.
4. A willingness and ability to manage administrative responsibilities in a timely fashion.

V. WHAT IS COVERED IN TRAINING

1. The nature and purpose of EfM.
2. The four-source model of theological reflection and methods used by the program to facilitate reflection and gather learnings.
3. The place and purpose of spiritual autobiographies in the program.
4. Group skills and resources for where to go if problems occur with the seminar group.
5. Worship as a part of an EfM group.
6. Current administrative procedures for the program.
7. Recruiting and beginning a seminar group.
8. Conducting an EfM seminar.

During a mentor training, the majority of the time will be involved with developing skills for theological reflection. Accreditation by the trainer is necessary before a mentor may enroll a group. Accreditation is not automatic.

VI. DURATION OF TRAINING

The training is on-site, intensive, and requires 18 contact hours. Mentor training usually involves six to eight participants and one trainer. Full participation is mandatory. Information on events scheduled in the United States may be obtained from EfM coordinators, the EfM website (<http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM>) or by contacting:

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