



Contents of the Four Years

Participants in the Efm program study the entire sweep of the Christian tradition from the earliest period to the present. Participants learn the disciplines of biblical exegesis and interpretation, systematic theology, church history, ethics, liturgics, and ascetical theology.

The traditional content is not studied in a vacuum. Students belong to small "communities of learning" in which the events of each person's life may be examined in the light of the materials being studied. While the course materials provide substantial academic content, the focus of the program is on life as ministry and understanding that ministry. Efm provides Christians with that basic skill which is the foundation of all Christian ministry -- theological reflection. In doing this, participants sharpen their skills of personal and cultural assessment and enhance abilities to be effective in a variety of ministries.

Outline of the Reading Materials: The program recommends thirty-six group meetings during the course of an academic cycle. New members begin with the first lesson of year one. Participants in the same group may be studying at different levels. They read thirty-four chapters of academic content and five common lessons which help the group to get started, to learn to reflect theologically, and to develop its spirituality.

The First Year: *The Old Testament:* Overview of the History of Israel • The Book of Genesis • The Themes of Creation, Sin, Judgement, and Redemption • Beginning the Study of Theology, Ethics, and Liturgics • The Exodus-Sinai Event and the Establishment of the Tribal Confederacy in Canaan • The Covenant of God with His People • The Books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, and 1 Samuel • The Books of 2 Samuel, 2 Kings, Deuteronomy, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah of Jerusalem, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel • Exilic and Post-Exilic Judaism • Judaism and the Beginning of Christianity • Second Isaiah • Ezra and Nehemiah • The Chronicler • The Psalter • The Wisdom Literature • The Maccabean Revolt • Judaism and the World of Jesus

The Second Year: *The New Testament:* Greek Culture • The Roman Empire • Judaism and the Second Temple • Galilee • Biblical "Criticism" and the Gospels • The Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke • The Gospel of John • The Life of Jesus • The Mighty Acts of Jesus • The Cross of Jesus • The Exaltation of Jesus • The Acts of the Apostles • The Pauline Christianity and the Epistles • The Letters of John • The Revelation of John • Hebrews • 1 Peter and James • 2 Peter and Jude

The Third Year: *Church History:* The Early Church Fathers • Gnosticism • Montanism • The Apologists • Irenaeus • Clement and Origen • The Great Cappadocians • Athanasius • Tertullian to Augustine • Nicea to Chalcedon • Early Liturgies • Spirituality: Monasticism, Mysticism, and Prayer • The Medieval Church • Aquinas and Bonaventure • Secularism, Religious Descent • The Reformation: Luther and Calvin • The Catholic Reformation • The Radical Reformation • Anglicanism, Puritanism, Pietism • The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries • The Industrial Revolution • John Wesley: The Methodist Church

The Fourth Year:

Theological Choices: Nineteenth-Century Anglicanism • American Church History • The Emergence of Modern Religious Thought • The Rise of Science • Kant, Schleiermacher, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Sartre, Camus, Whitehead • Tillich, Niebuhr, Moltmann, Cobb, Pittenger • Modernism • The Rise of Biblical Criticism • Ritschl, Barth, Bultmann • De-Mythologizing and Neo-Orthodoxy • The Rise of Fundamentalism • The Liturgical Movement • Liberation • Christianity and Religious Pluralism • Non-Christian Religions • Twenty-first Century Challenges