



Mentor Training

A Programme
of Theological Education

Information and application forms

www.efmuk.org.uk

Issued: May 2009

*The Education For Ministry Trust – Registered Charity N° 1061962
Mentor Training*

Mentors in EfM

All EfM groups have a trained and accredited mentor, who is a facilitator and guide rather than a teacher. The mentor often plays a large part in the recruitment and formation of a group and is also responsible for a small amount of administration.

Mentors may be lay or ordained. It is helpful, though not essential, to have experienced some religious study already. More important is a commitment to continued learning and a wish to accompany others who are at various stages in their journey of faith. Also necessary are a maturity of faith that is comfortable with the rich diversity of biblical tradition and scholarship, and an ability to allow for a range of biblical interpretation within the group.

Some experience of work in small group is always an advantage for a potential mentor. The EfM group should develop a life in which the members seek and find answers in a mutually supportive environment, and handle conflicting thoughts and feelings in a creative and constructive way.

Purpose of mentor training events

First-time participants: to acquire the necessary basic skills and knowledge to form and mentor an EfM group and, with the trainer, to assess his or her readiness for the task.

Existing mentors: to support them in their work, and, encourage them in the development and evaluation of their skills.

Goals

1. To develop skills in conducting theological reflection.
2. To understand:
 - the nature and purpose of EfM
 - the four source model for theological reflection
 - the basic educational method behind EfM
 - the place and purpose of spiritual autobiographies
 - the place and purpose of worship in EfM groups
 - how to plan an EfM seminar
3. To understand EfM administration and how to recruit and start an EfM group.
4. To know where to find ongoing help, support, encouragement and training.

Methods

The training is experiential, and the trainers model one of the core principles of EfM, that the mentor is someone who enables others in their growth and development. Course participants plan, lead, observe and evaluate the process of theological reflection. The training is 18 'contact hours' and full attendance is obligatory. There are usually six to eight participants and one trainer.

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Who may apply for training?

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 EfM mentor who has attended training twice but needs further work on theological reflection skills.
4. A person who wishes to replace a mentor leaving a group.
5. Someone who wants first hand information about EfM and the training programme, but may not yet be ready or willing to mentor.

On-going training

A first-time mentor cannot start a group before being accredited by the EfM trainer. Mentors must complete another full Basic training event within 18 months in order to maintain accreditation. Subsequently mentors are required to attend at least one training event (Basic or Development) every 12 - 18 months.

More details are available from the trainer, EfM (UK) Office or our website.

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Sample Timetable

Accreditation Mentor Training Event

(NB The timetable is adjusted according to circumstances, but will always contain 18 'contact hours' between trainer and participants)

Day 1

11.00 - 12.30	Session 1
1.00	<i>Lunch</i>
2.00 - 5.30	Sessions 2 & 3, with break for tea
6.00	<i>Dinner</i>
7.00 - 9.00	Session 4
9.00 - 9.15	Worship

Day 2

8.00	<i>Breakfast</i>
8.45	Worship
9.00 - 12.30	Sessions 5 & 6 with break for coffee
1.00	<i>Lunch</i>
3.30	<i>Tea</i>
3.45 - 5.30	Session 7
6.00	<i>Dinner</i>
7.00-9.00	Session 8
9.00-9.15	Worship

Day 3

8.00	<i>Breakfast</i>
8.45	Worship
9.00 - 12.30	Sessions 9 & 10 with break for coffee
1.00	<i>Lunch</i>
2.00-3.30	Evaluations and closing worship
3.30	<i>Tea and depart</i>

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